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MAZADA TOURS

Money

Alan Blinder, former deputy chairman of the US Federal Reserve, discusses central banking with Pinchas Landau

How the closure affects real estate

It's all in the Money Magazine

TODAY

Yigal Amir verdict today

RAINE MARCUS

CONFESSED assassin Yigal Amir faces his verdict and probable sentencing in Tel Aviv District Court this morning.

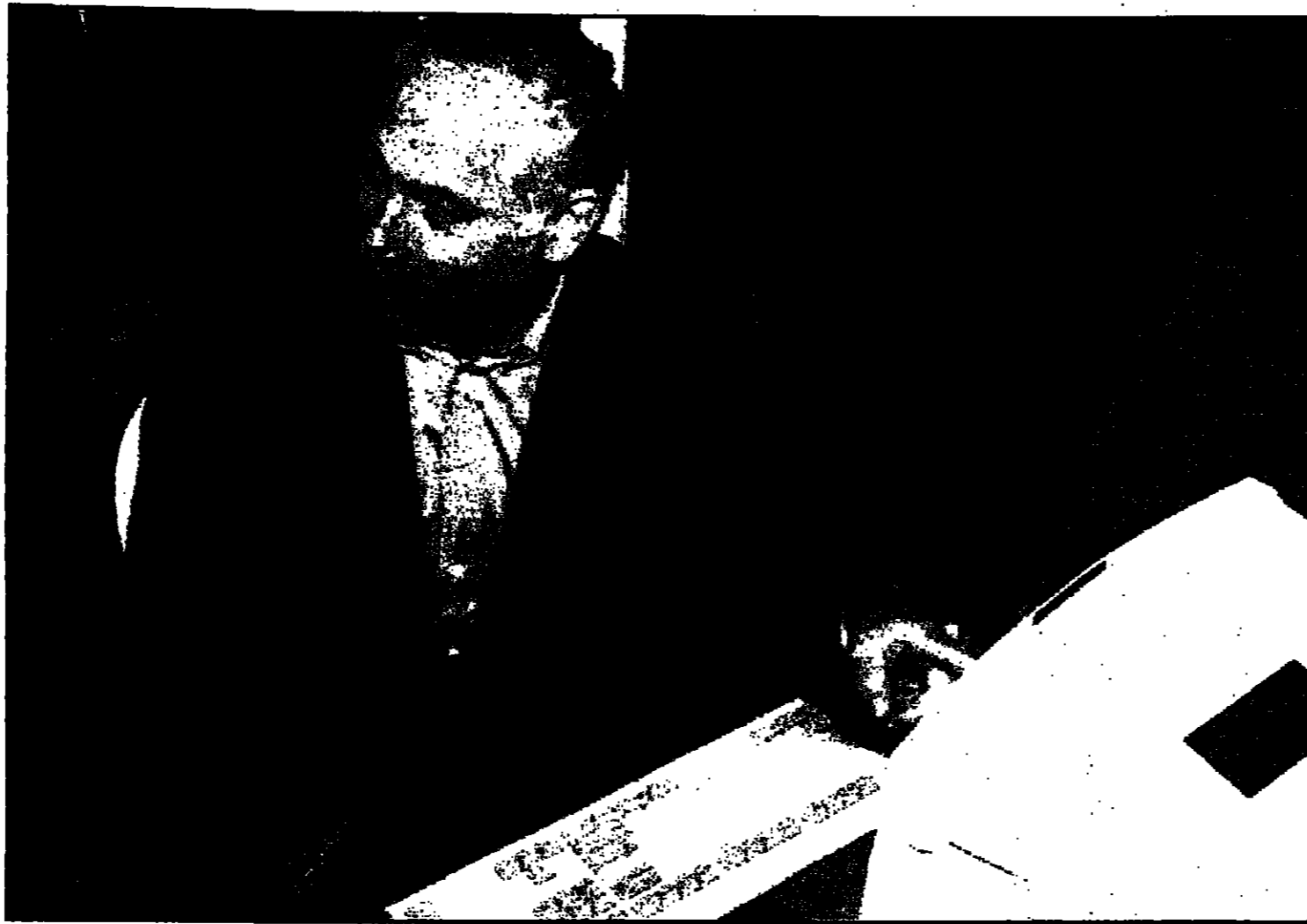
If convicted of the murder of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, Amir will be sentenced to life imprisonment. He also faces a sentence, either consecutive or concurrent, for wounding Rabin's bodyguard, Yoram Rubin.

Amir was arrested after he was seen shooting Rabin three times as the prime minister was getting into his car in the parking lot behind Tel Aviv's Kikar Makhai Yisrael (now Kikar Rabin) where he had addressed a peace rally.

Amir was indicted on December 5. Although he told Judges Edmond Levy, Saviyona Rodlevy, and Oded Muddrich that he did not want a defense lawyer, his family hired Mordechai Offri — and then fired him. Jonathan Ray Goldberg then appeared for Amir and incurred Levy's wrath several times, because of his lack of knowledge of the law. Offri returned to the defense — only to quit shortly after.

Two other lawyers then offered their services — Shmuel Fleishman and Gabi Shuhar — and the trial continued.

Three psychiatrists who examined Amir ruled him mentally fit to stand trial.



Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu shows how he cast his ballot in yesterday's party primaries in Jerusalem. (Brian Händler)

16 new faces on Labor's Knesset slate

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

SIXTEEN new faces appear on Labor's list for the next Knesset, which was presented yesterday evening after the national and regional lists elected in Monday's primaries were combined.

Senior Labor figures yesterday expressed satisfaction with the young new leadership concentrated at the top of the list, including Ehud Barak (slot three in the final list), Binyamin Ben-Eliezer (slot four), Ephraim Sneh (eight), and Ori Orr (10).

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram, who shot ahead of previous poll favorites Barak and Haim Ramon (slot five) to reach first place in the primaries, said yesterday he would consider running for prime minister in the future.

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli (seven), who presented the list, noted it includes six women, three of them first-time Knesset candidates; six candi-

dates under age 40; and 19 candidates of Sephardi origin.

Among the surprises on the list was Nadia Hilo, an Arab Christian from Jaffa, in slot 37, which is reserved for a woman candidate.

Another surprise was Adisu Massala, an Ethiopian immigrant who ran against two other new immigrants for the 29th slot.

Zvilli commended Massala's election, but pointed out that since Labor intends to have a representative of Russian new immigrants as well, the party's central committee will be asked to upgrade Ronen Plaut from slot 45 to a more realistic place.

Among those who either did not get elected to a realistic slot or whose position is uncertain are: Minister of Industry and Trade Micha Harish; his Deputy

Minister Masha Lubelsky; Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Eli Dayan (47); MK Shmuel Avital (48); MK Gedalya Gal; and possibly Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet (42).

Altogether, a record 194,788 party members voted, compared to 120,000 in 1992, with a 70 percent voting turnout.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Zvilli agreed yesterday to conduct personal meetings with

all those who feel injured by the primaries to prevent a rift in the party.

Liat Collins adds:

Following the results, Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen said he could not rule out the possibility of a change in the party's campaign leadership before election day. He mentioned no names, but the statement was made shortly after it became clear that Interior Minister Haim Ramon had not reached as high a spot on the list as expected.

TV: Begin, Meridor top Likud list

SARAH HONG

WHATEVER deals were rumored to have been hatched in the Likud, they did not keep MKs Ze'ev Begin and Dan Meridor from the top slots in yesterday's primaries, according to projections by TV pollsters on both Channel 1 and Channel 2. Right next to them is Ariel Sharon, who masterminded the joint ticket with Tsomet and Gesher, and the most lustrous Likud acquisition of the season, Maj-Gen. (res.) Yitzhak Mordechai.

The projections were welcomed by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, who congratulated his party on choosing an excellent team — which was immediately derided by Labor.

The computerized Likud voting system was expected to produce the final results late last night.

Though the pollsters largely failed in their predictions regarding the Labor primaries the night before, both Mina Tzemah for Channel 1 and Teleseker for Channel 2 were in considerable agreement about the Likud results last night. Both channels placed Begin at the top of the Likud heap.

Channel 1 put Meridor next, followed by Sharon, Moshe Katsav, Tzahi Hanegbi, Mordechai Limor Livnat, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Uzi Landau, Michael Eitan, Eliahu Ben-Elissar,

Meir Sheerit, Dan Tichon, Silvan Shalom, Naomi Blumenthal, Dov Shilansky, former deputy GSS chief Gideon Ezra, Yossi Ahimeir, David Mena, and Reuven Rivlin.

The Channel 2 version puts Sharon second, then Meridor, Mordechai, Katsav, Hanegbi, Olmert, Livnat, Landau, Eitan, Sheerit, Ben-Elissar, Shalom, Tichon, Ezra, Blumenthal, Shilansky, Mena, Ahimeir, and Rivlin.

The above candidates from the prestigious and grueling nationwide race will be joined by 10 candidates from the regional contests, who will be interspersed among them. Likud candidates will be moved down considerably by the 14 candidates coming from the new partner parties.

According to the polls, the local Likud races will return MK Avraham Herschson from the Tel Aviv District, Yehoshua Matza from Jerusalem, and Ron Nahman from Judea and Samaria. Haifa appears to have sent David Ram and in the coastal region it was still neck and neck between Yossi Olmert and Herzliya Mayor Eli Landau, with Olmert enjoying a narrow lead.

MK Ovadia Eli did not make it. Likud insiders said he would have been a shoo-in had he heeded advice and opted for the easier regional track, rather than the major-league nationwide race.

Rivlin would end up in the 43rd slot on the final list, if the polls are borne out. He had been

(Continued on Page 2)

Labor's machine is well oiled

ANALYSIS

SARAH HONG

THE Labor Party machine is alive and well. The results of the Labor vote illustrate better than anything the continuing power of the backstage manipulators.

The list produced in the Labor primaries is one which would have gladdened the heart of any Labor appointments committee of yesterday. Prime Minister Shimon Peres has every reason to feel gratified. He would not have put a different list together himself.

The dark horse appearance of Tourism Minister Uzi Baram in the second slot is just the sort of thing Peres himself did in the past with such candidates as Shoshana Arbelli-Almosino. Like her, Baram is no real challenge to Peres and no leading contender to succeed him. He is harmless, non-threatening, and comfortable to have around.

In the great prestige battle between Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and Interior Minister Haim Ramon, Peres was known to have unequivocally backed Barak. Ramon — the protégé who betrayed him in 1992 by switching allegiance to Yitzhak Rabin and later did grievous injury to Peres's Histadrut powerbase — is not the prime minister's favorite. Peres could not afford to remove him from the leadership, but was not averse to dealing him a humiliating slap.

Ramon had feared all along that the party machine and the old Histadrut oligarchy would wreak vengeance upon him, and it did. There were pre-arranged deals and prepared lists from which his name was conspicuously absent. Ramon became the target of a boycott calculated to deliver him a message.

Just the same, it did Peres no harm to douse a little cold water on Barak's pride and keep him from getting too cocky. It serves Peres well not to have Barak in the second slot, but useful to have an

ex-general like Barak in the leadership, as well as others with military pasts like Ori Orr and Binyamin Ben-Eliezer.

A tough security-oriented image is just what Peres needs after the recent terrorist outrages, as he goes after floating voters inclined toward the Likud.

Likewise Peres was careful not

to crase from the Labor leadership such old Rabin sidekicks as Finance Minister Avraham Shohat. But while the non-trouble-making Shohat is left near the top, elsewhere the Rabin cronies did less well. The token woman in the leadership is Peres ally Dalia Itzik, not Rabin's Ora Namir.

The party establishment also showed its muscle in the case of those it boosted. Peres protégé Yossi Beilin never had a flare for campaigning and in 1992 ended up

(Continued on Page 2)

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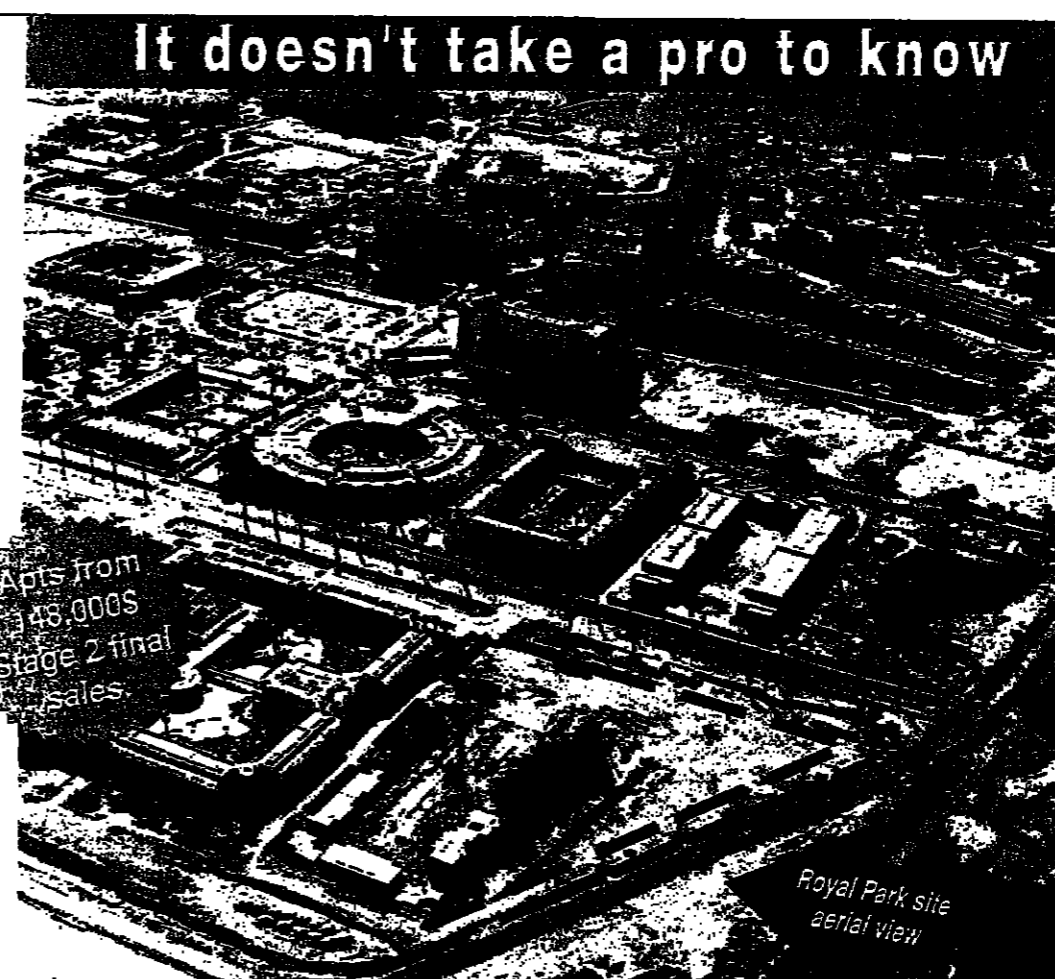
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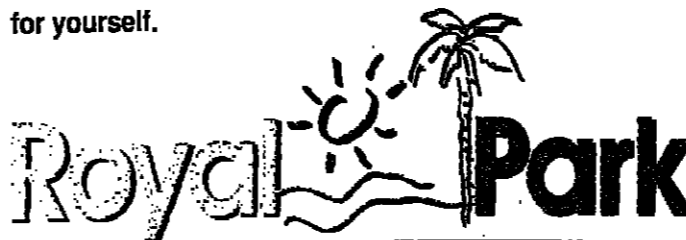
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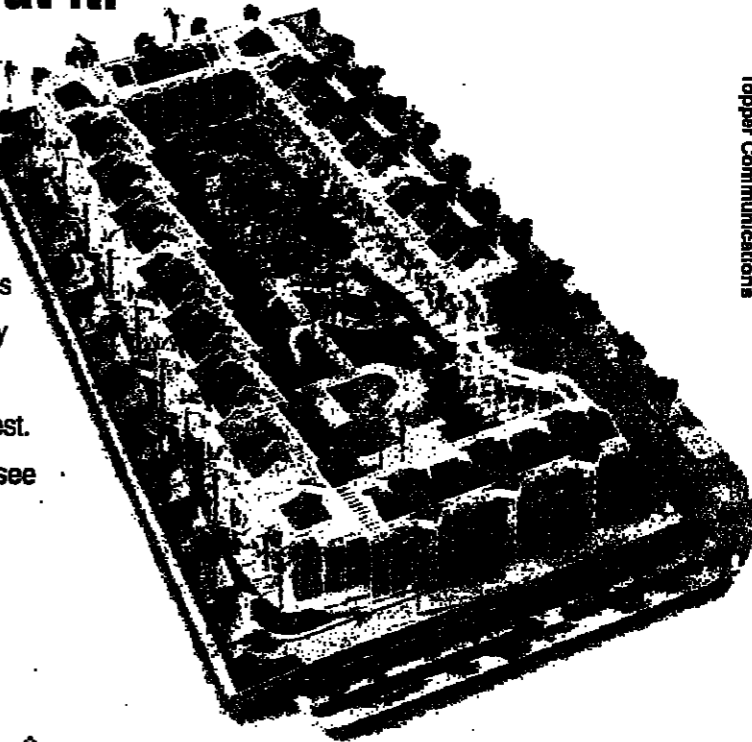


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Gesher chooses list

GESHER founders yesterday elected the six candidates whom David Levy had favored to the Likud-Tsomet-Gesher list for the Knesset elections.

Gesher has no elected forums and so Levy gathered 172 founders to select the list.

The candidates chosen yesterday at Tel Aviv's Beit Hahayal will get reserved slots on the Likud list. Levy will be the first Gesher name on the list, occupying the second slot, right after Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu. The others will receive slots ranging from ninth to 41st.

SARAH HONIG

MK David Magen and Levy's brother, Maxim, ran unopposed for the second and third slots.

The next three slots were contested, but all those referred to as part of Levy's "big deal" were voted into precisely the slots they ran for. The fourth slot went to long-time Levy lieutenant and former Likud MK Michael Kleiner.

Next in was former ambassador to France Yehuda Lankri. The sixth Gesher slot went to Levy aide Motti Mishani and the seventh to spokesman Ya'acov Bardugo.

Uri Oren, who ran against Lankri, argued later that the fact that Levy's team was elected into the slots Levy wanted "indicated that there was a manipulating hand here and hardly a clean democratic process."

Earlier, former MK Aharon Abuhatzira pulled out of the race, complaining that "Levy was pitting members against each other instead of putting order into the house."

With a list such as this Gesher could never have stood a chance of getting even a single member into the Knesset.

Likud primaries go high tech

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Likud's first Knesset candidate primary elections were held with almost no problems yesterday. By 3 p.m. — eight hours after the polling booths opened — the voter turnout was only 17 percent, but it picked up considerably in the evening hours.

Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu came with his wife, Sara, and son, Yair, to cast his ballot at Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem, where he was greeted like a football star as people sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

Netanyahu sat for several minutes facing the computer screen, posing for dozens of photographers.

When he was done, Netanyahu told reporters he had voted for [Jerusalem Mayor] Ehud Olmert, whose name "I ran into first, since it heads the list."

Pressed further, he admitted to having voted for Dan Meridor as well, "and all the good people leading the Likud."

Netanyahu yesterday reiterated his call to voters to ignore the various lists of recommended candidates, from which certain leading candidates' names were excluded.

The lists — many of which omitted Dan Meridor, Ze'ev Begin, Ariel Sharon, or Meir Sheerit — caused much tension in the party.

In some cases, it was rumored that candidates were asked by vote contractors to pay a large sum of money in order to have their names included on a list.

MK Esther Salmovitz said she was asked for NIS 30,000-NIS 40,000 to be included on such a list but refused.

Despite Netanyahu's request, the lists continued to be distributed at the polls.

Sheerit blasted the lists and said "all these deals and lists have no value and will make no difference, except cause damage to the Likud. If anyone thinks Likud voters are robots, they are making a big mistake. The days of Salah Shabati are over."

Sheerit said it was hard to say who was behind the various lists.

"According to rumors, it could be anyone from the Likud leaders, Yvette Liberman [Likud general manager and Netanyahu's close aide, who was recently reported to have authored efforts at getting Meridor off the recommended candidates' list], to camp heads, and branch chairmen.

"I've seen several different lists, on some my name appears, on others it doesn't. The Likud's maturity will be tested by the Knesset list it elects, which should not be based on deals."

The Likud's primaries were conducted by computer, the first such voting of its kind. Voters selected candidates by pressing boxes on computer screens. The automated system was expected to yield final results just two hours after the polls closed at 10 p.m.

Labor Party list of Knesset candidates

1. Shimon Peres
2. Uzi Baram, national list
3. Ehud Barak, national list
4. Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, national list
5. Haim Ramon, national list
6. Avraham Shohat, national list
7. Nissim Zivili, reserved for secretary-general
8. Ephraim Sneh, national list
9. Dalila Itzik, national (reserved for woman)
10. Ori Orr, national
11. Yossi Beilin, national
12. Shevah Weiss, national
13. Rafi Elul, Central District
14. Rafael Edri, Sharon-Shomron District
15. Hagai Merom, national
16. Yossi Katz, Haifa District
17. Nawaf Massalha (reserved Arab seat)
18. Ora Namir, national (reserved for woman)
19. Eli Ben-Menahem, Tel Aviv District
20. Elie Goldschmidt, United Kibbutz Movement
21. David Liba'i, national
22. Ra'anan Cohen, Dan District
23. Amir Peretz, Southern District
24. Moshe Shahal, national
25. Ophir Pines, Jerusalem District
26. Shalom Simhon, moshavim and community settlements
27. Yael Dayan, national (reserved for woman)
28. Micha Goldman, Northern District
29. Adisu Massala, national (reserved for new immigrant)
30. Sallah Tarif (reserved Arab seat)
31. Avi Yehzekel, Central District
32. Yona Yahav, Haifa District
33. Ephraim Oshaya, Sharon-Shomron District
34. Shlomo Ben-Ami, national
35. Eitan Kavel, Dan District
36. Rafik Haj Yihye (reserved Arab seat)
37. Nadia Hilo, National list (reserved for woman)
38. Ron Huldai, Tel Aviv District
39. Tzali Reshef, Jerusalem District
40. Ofra Friedman, districts (reserved for woman)
41. Eitan Broshi, United Kibbutz Movement
42. Shimon Sheerit, national
43. Shiri Weizman, Southern District
44. Ora Hacham, districts (reserved for woman)
45. Ronen Plaut, Northern District
46. Ya'acov Terner, national
47. Eli Dayan, national
48. Shmuel Avital, moshavim



Prime Minister Shimon Peres addresses Labor members after results were announced yesterday. (Yossi Zeliger)

Histadrut activists: We put Ramon in his place

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

INTERIOR Minister Haim Ramon, elected fifth on the party's final Knesset list after Prime Minister Shimon Peres, was furious yesterday to learn that lists of recommended candidates were distributed that excluded his name.

Some lists were reportedly handed out at the polls by supporters of Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Labor's campaign chairman. Had it not been for the lists, it is thought in Labor that Ramon would have reached a much higher slot.

Ramon, who met Ben-Eliezer

to discuss campaign strategy yesterday, reportedly said he regards the list incident as a declaration of war against him.

Many Histadrut activists, especially in the local labor councils, also tried to persuade voters not to vote for Ramon.

The idea was to put Ramon in his place, after the way he treated labor activists and workers in the Histadrut, a source in Labor's Histadrut faction said.

"The Histadrut sector had to prove to Labor that it has the

power to influence the placing of candidates on the Knesset list. Politicians must know that they can't get away with anything, and that the voters will not forget and forgive any injustice."

The source said the move against Ramon was also intended "as a signal to Ramon's successors in the Histadrut [particularly Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz] that if they continue in Ramon's footsteps [in weakening the Histadrut and acting against it] their political future is in jeopardy."

Russian members blast Labor results

BATSHEVA TSUR

RUSSIAN-SPEAKING members of the Labor Party yesterday described the election of an Ethiopian-born party member to the immigrants' slot as "a disaster for the future of the party."

"Labor has left behind all its soldiers in the field," said Sofia Landwer, head of the Association of Soviet Immigrants, who lost to Adisu Massala, head of the Unified Ethiopian Immigrants Association. "Personally, I shall remain in the party but I can't bring them the votes of the 100,000 people I represent in the association."

Landwer, who was Prime Minister Shimon Peres's Russian tutor, said party members had failed to grasp that they had turned their backs on one-fifth of the population. "Apart from my personal pain," she said, "all the Russian-speaking immigrants have received a loud and clear message: the party does not want them although they helped to bring it to power in the last elections."

"This is the victory both of our community and of Israeli society. It will raise the morale of the Ethiopian community to have an MK," said the victorious Massala. He said he would represent the interests of Russian-speaking immigrants and other weak sectors of the population as well as those of his own community.

Close to 20,000 new immigrants from the former Soviet Union are believed to have joined Labor while only 1,000 Ethiopian immigrants signed up, Landwer said.

Landwer said Massala had "enormous media exposure over the [discarded Ethiopian] blood issue. It was a brilliant stroke of PR."

Natan Sharansky's Yisrael Ba'aliya party issued a statement saying the Labor and Likud primaries had "demonstrated just where the problems of immigrants lie in their order of priorities."

"We congratulate Massala, but we have to ask how it is possible that out of 700,000 Russian immigrants not one was elected to any of the other parties."

Netanyahu meets with Jordan's Prince Hassan

AMMAN (AP) — Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu arrived in Akaba yesterday for talks with Crown Prince Hassan as part of contacts between Jordanian and Israeli political groups.

In the wake of the suicide bombings, Netanyahu said the current Israeli-Palestinian peace process failed to provide Israelis with minimal security.

Jordanian officials said Netanyahu met with Prince Hassan, King Hussein's younger brother, who is acting as regent while the monarch is abroad.

Jordan Information Minister Marwan Mousasher said that Netanyahu's one-day visit was part of Jordan's effort to be closely informed on developments in the Israeli political scene.

Moledet activists protest putting new members on its list

HERB KEINON

THE ghosts of MKs Shaul Guttman and Yosef Ba-Gad, Moledet renegades who split from the party after being elected, are haunting party activists, leading some council members to file an appeal in the Tel Aviv District Court this morning to keep new names off the party's Knesset slate.

The appeal by two Moledet council members will ask the court to invalidate a recent party decision reducing the time a person must be a party member before running for the Knesset.

A few weeks ago, the party's council acceded to party head Rehavam Ze'evi's request to cut the eligibility requirement from a year to a few months. The move paved the way for settlement activist and former Zo Artzenu leader Rabbi Benny Elon and Jerusalem city councilman and former Border Police commander Mestulam Amit.

Ze'evi and the heads of 11 Moledet branches want Elon and Amit placed in the second and third slots on the list.

Parachuting outsiders onto the party list is problematic to a number of Moledet activists, party executive head Yigal Slonim said.

"In 1992, Ba-Gad was placed on the list a week before the elections," Slonim said. "Because of this, some people want to be very careful."

Elon and Amit's supporters also say their reasons have to do with Ba-Gad and Guttman.

"We have had trouble with the people we have picked in the second and third slots in the past," Jerusalem Moledet head Uri Blank said.

"So, because of this, we want to pick people who have proven themselves in public life."

If the court rejects the appeal,

Moledet's 40-member council is to select its candidates from some 30 hopefuls this afternoon.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother

GERTRUDE (Gertie) GRANEK

The funeral will take place today, March 27, 1996, at the Eretz Hahaim cemetery, in Har-Tuv, at 12:00 p.m.

Shiva at Bar Kochba 55/5, Jerusalem. Telephone: 0-2-816129

The bereaved family

We regret to announce the passing of

LISA SUSSMAN
(née Petrushka)

The funeral will take place at Haifa's Sdeh Yehoshua Cemetery, Gate No. 3, today, Wednesday, March 27, 1996, at 2:45 p.m.

The Prels, Hirschhorn, and Petrushka families

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

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Rabbi LEON KRONISH
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a long-time supporter and Honorary Fellow of the University and expresses sympathy to the entire family.

The Members of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (I.C.C.I.) offer their condolences to

Rabbi Dr. Ron Kronish on the passing of his father

Rabbi LEON KRONISH

LABOR

(Continued from Page 1)

in the lowly 27th slot only after massive help from Ramon. This time he did not campaign either, but Peres's clout lifted him above the crowd.

Peres also did wonders for newcomer Shlomo Ben-Ami, whose fortunes were not bright on the eve of the primaries, when the party establishment was gripped with panic because there were no Moroccans in safe slots. Peres sent a last-minute word that Ben-Ami must get in.

The only instance in which the party machine was really beaten was in Health Minister Ephraim Sneh's case.

He was reputed to have been on the party machine's hit list as well, for deserting Peres to climb aboard the Rabin bandwagon in 1992.

Tibi welcomes Islamic participation in elections

DAVID RUDGE

DR. Ahmed Tibi, head of the newly formed Arab Movement for Change (AMC) party, yesterday welcomed the Islamic Movement's decision to participate in the upcoming Knesset elections on a united Arab list.

The AMC, which has been registered as a party after seven attempts to disqualify it were rejected, is to hold its first convention in Taiba tonight.

Tibi, adviser to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, said senior PA officials, Meretz and Labor MKs, and officials from

foreign embassies are expected to attend the convention.

The convention body will decide the party's platform and constitution and elect its central committee, which will choose the party's Knesset candidates next week.

Two other parties — the Progressive Movement for Peace and the Islamic Arab List, which is loosely affiliated with the Islamic Movement — have already agreed to join forces with the AMC.

The Democratic Arab Party of MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe has remained independent so far.

BEGIN

(Continued from Page 1)

teamed up with David Levy throughout his political career, but would not quit the Likud with him. Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo lamented "the cruel political blow Rubi suffered. We see Levy's sidekicks rewarded for walking out on the Likud, while the loyal members like Rivjin pay

a bitter price for not betraying the party. It is unfair."

Former Tehiya leader Genia Cohen was third among the Likud's women, but her final placing will probably not be in a realistic slot. This despite the fact that her son, Hanegbi, did so well and ran a joint campaign with his mother.

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Libi Ceremony at the Knesset

At a recent ceremony, held under the patronage of Knesset Speaker Prof. Shevah Weiss, the Premier and Defense Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres awarded Libi Fund certificates to prominent Libi contributors and volunteers from Israel and abroad, in recognition of their outstanding activities in recent years.

Participating in the ceremony were Gen. Gidon Shefer, C.O., IDF Manpower Branch, Gen. (Res.) Danny Matt, Chairman, Libi Fund, Brigadier Avraham Asaf, Chief Education and Gadna Officer, and Brigadier Shuli Shemer, Chief Medical Officer.

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PA Police uncovers secret Hamas cells

PALESTINIAN police say they have uncovered a secret network within the military wing of Hamas dedicated to attacking Israel and weakening Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's self-rule government.

Mohammed Dahlan, Arafat's senior security aide, told Reuters in an interview that the network came to light during questioning of suspects detained in the crackdown on Hamas following suicide bombings in Israel.

A senior Hamas member, interviewed freely in prison, confirmed the existence of the cells.

Dahlan, head of the Preventative Security Service in Gaza, said he had detained all but two members of Hamas's military

arm, the Izzadin Kassam, in the Gaza Strip. But he said he could not rule out further attacks against Israel.

Interrogators had discovered the existence of a "secret apparatus" within Kassam controlled by the exiled Hamas leadership in Jordan, he said.

"We have arrested all the Kassam fugitives except for Mohammed Dief and Yahya Ghoul," Dahlan said at his new headquarters in Gaza City where the detainees are held.

Dief heads Israel's most wanted list for his role in four suicide bombings between February 25 and March 4 which killed 59 people in Israel.

"The secret cells, known as the

secret apparatus, are more dangerous than the fugitives.

"Most of them are unknown, some of them have the right to enter Israel and this means they are not known to the Israelis as well," Dahlan said.

"Some have assassinated Palestinian police. I don't want to go into further details because we have not finished the investigations," he said.

Palestinian officials said the secret cells had killed four Palestinian policemen and they feared the cells had infiltrated the Palestinian Authority. Dahlan said he had no information that the cells had penetrated the PA. (Reuters)



A student representative at Jerusalem's Beit Hinnch High School reads one of 140 letters from students of Oklahoma City's Classen High School, presented yesterday by US Ambassador Martin Indyk (left) and Ruby Shamir, executive director of the America-Israel Friendship League, as Mayor Ehud Olmert looks on. Pupils at both schools were victims of terrorism. (Ariel Jeruzolimski)

IDF officer: Terrorism can never be uprooted

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

TERRORISM does not threaten the existence of the state, but it can never be uprooted and could still cause a mortal blow to the peace process with the Palestinians, a senior officer said yesterday.

The senior officer, who briefed military reporters, said terrorism will continue alongside the peace process, and Israel could only rein it in to a "tolerable" level.

It will be a long time before full peace can be reached between Israel and the Palestinian society, which has still not consolidated on an organizational level, the officer said.

"Coexistence with security is the best we can hope for," he added.

The peace process is vulnerable to disruption at any stage, but despite this, the officer said, it is irreversible.

Regarding Syria, the senior officer said there is uncertainty on the progress of the peace negotiations and the IDF's long-range planning is based on the premise that Syria presents a real threat to the state.

"There are a lot of hopes for peace with Syria and the prize is great. It would be for us a dramatic change in the strategic situation in the Middle East. It would complete a crescent of agreements," he said.

But the senior officer stressed that as long as a peace agreement is not reached, the IDF is still preparing for a potential war with Syria.

"There is the traditional threat to the state from the Syrian enemy and we will continue to treat it as a worst-case scenario. We have no choice," he said.

The senior officer also spoke of long-range threats to the state, namely the attempted proliferation of nuclear weapons to the region, chemical warfare and the instability of Arab regimes due to Islamic fundamentalism.

"Even the most positive progress in the peace process that will bear the best fruits of peace and the most optimal results doesn't rule out these long-range threats. The process doesn't prevent them, and in some facets actually encourages them," the senior officer said.

German-Israeli satellite won't be used for spying

JUDY SIEGEL

THE 150-kilogram satellite being studied by the Israeli and German space agencies will not be a spy satellite and will solely serve commercial purposes, said Ahy Har-Even, director of the Israel Space Agency.

Har-Even said a mistranslation that appeared in the *Davar Rishon* daily of an item printed in *Flight* magazine erroneously described the satellite, called David, as a "spy satellite." This caused considerable harm to Israel, he said.

The satellite will be developed by the Israeli company El-Op and the German company OHB. Last December, ISA and Dara, the German space agency, agreed to cover \$100,000 of the costs of a feasibility study, with the two companies paying an additional \$300,000.

Har-Even explained that if the feasibility study shows the project is worthwhile, commercial investors will have to be found to finance it.

Har-Even, who is optimistic about the study's results, said the satellite would carry a scientific telescope and camera for studying the galaxies and also look down on earth to survey agriculture, mines, and seas. If all goes well, the feasibility study will be completed this summer and David will be launched in 1998, remaining at an orbit some 600 kilometers above earth for three or four years.

"If it functions well, additional satellites could be modeled after the David," Har-Even added.

Amos-1 satellite to be launched in May

DOUGLAS DAVIS LONDON

ISRAEL is planning to launch the Amos-1 communications satellite aboard a French Ariane rocket from the European Space Agency's French Guiana complex in early May.

According to a spokesman for Israel Aircraft Industries, the 961-kilogram, \$350-million satellite will be used for civilian purposes, including television and radio broadcasts.

However, the London-based *Jane's Defense Weekly* said the launch will "move Israel one step closer to establishing a space-based early warning missile system."

There is speculation that Israel's satellite program is part of a ramified antimissile shield that will be coordinated with the Arrow-2 antimissile system, which is being developed by Israel with US financial participation.

The first link in Israel's supposed ballistic early-warning shield came with the launch of the 335-kilogram Ofek-3 satellite, which was carried into orbit by an Israeli-made, three-stage Shavit rocket.

Ofek-3, which is said to carry cameras capable of transmitting high-resolution photographs, is in

a retrograde east-west orbit at an altitude of 500 kilometers that takes it over Iran, Iraq, and Syria.

The Amos-1 is expected to be placed in a geosynchronous orbit above Zaire, from where it will be controlled by technicians at a ground station in Israel.

It has a wide range of applications, but *Jane's* asserts that it is likely to be used to eavesdrop on Arab and Iranian communications networks.

Its launching has been delayed by several months, but once up it is expected to remain in orbit for

up to 11 years.

An independent, real-time antimissile system is likely to minimize, or even eliminate, Israel's dependence on US satellite intelligence data.

Israeli specialists have said three to four early warning satellites in low-earth orbit would provide round-the-clock surveillance of the Arab world.

Meanwhile, the Arab Satellite Communications Organization (Arabsat) is expected to launch its second-generation satellites later this year - starting with Arabsat 2A - also aboard an Ariane rocket.

Shamgar Commission to present report tomorrow

BILL HUTMAN

THE Shamgar Commission on the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin is to present its findings to the government tomorrow, the Justice Ministry announced yesterday.

The commission's final report is over 300 pages long. About 100 pages are classified, but the remainder will be released to the public at the same time it is presented to the government, the ministry spokeswoman said.

The report is to include recommendations on what disciplinary or legal action should be

taken against the seven General Security Service and police officers the commission investigated regarding the security failures surrounding the assassination.

The seven include six GSS officers - one of whom is former GSS head Karmi Gillon - and Asst.-Cmdr. Ya'acov Shoval, Yarkon district police chief.

The commission, headed by former chief justice Meir Shamgar, completed the inquiry's investigative part about two months ago.

US resists pressure to discuss closure at anti-terror parley

HILLEL KUTTLER WASHINGTON

THE US is resisting appeals from the Palestinians and several Arab countries to broaden this week's counterterrorism conference to a discussion of Israel's closure of the territories.

"This meeting is focused on practical measures to confront terror. The working agenda at the meeting is counterterrorism," a senior administration official said yesterday.

In their opening and closing statements, "I would expect parties will indeed raise issues" related to the closure, and the US will not stifle such pronouncements, the official said.

But the more appropriate forum for addressing such concerns is at the next meeting of the donor countries' ad-hoc liaison committee, a site and date for which have not yet been set, the official added.

Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat is visiting several Arab capitals this week to press the need to alleviate the economic distress resulting from the closure that followed the four

recent suicide bombings in Israel.

An Israeli Embassy official here said the dispute is "not really a crisis," and that discussions on the agenda would continue through tomorrow afternoon in advance of the 5 p.m. start to the two-day session.

An official of the Egyptian Embassy said no one from Cairo's foreign ministry will attend, "not as a sign of protest but because we don't see anything on the peace process" on the agenda. He predicted the European Union's participation would likely also include security but not political officials.

Several ambassadors, including from Israel and Egypt, will be among the participants. Syria is not attending, after having also boycotted the Sharm e-Sheikh counterterrorism summit on March 13.

The US, Israeli and Egyptian officials said a list is not yet complete of countries sending security specialists to the meeting.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Firm abandons Auschwitz mini-mall plans
A retail company has abandoned plans to lease space in a mini-mall near the Auschwitz death camp, leaving the controversial project without its main client.

"We intend to withdraw from the lease agreement" with the Maja company, which owns the land and began building the shopping center last November, said Mariusz Wojdan of the Krakow-based Krakchemia company yesterday.

"While criticizing media reports about the project as 'much ado about nothing,' Wojdan said in a telephone interview that his company decided to pull out "for social and political reasons." AP

Hitchhiker dies when car overturns
Eliahu Damari, 56, of Ramle, was killed late Monday night when the car in which he hitched a ride overturned in Yavne. The driver lost control of the car while trying to pass on the right.

The other two passengers fled the scene immediately. The police located and questioned one of them yesterday and are still searching for the other. *Itm*

Injunction issued against Har Homa plans
The Jerusalem District Court yesterday issued a seven-day injunction prohibiting the district building commission from approving plans for the Har Homa neighborhood in southeastern Jerusalem.

The injunction was issued in response to a petition by 29 landowners and the Peace Now-affiliated Ir Shalem group. The petitioners want an investigation of statements made by the municipal engineer that the neighborhood is being built for political reasons and not to meet the city's housing needs. *JerusalemPost Staff*

IDF ombudsman to investigate POW mistreatment
Prime Minister Shimon Peres has appointed IDF ombudsman Maj.-Gen. (res.) Aharon Daron to investigate reports of mistreatment of Egyptian and Israeli prisoners of war in the wars between the two countries. The appointment was announced to the Egyptian government. *Itm*

Herzl's notes to be displayed for first time
To honor the 100th anniversary of the publication of Theodor Herzl's book *Der Judenstaat*, some of the notes he made prior to writing it will be displayed today for the first time in the lobby of the Alfred Davis Building at the Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus and tomorrow in the Eshkol Tower at the University of Haifa.

The exhibit - which will then be permanently displayed at the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem - will also include copies of 22 translations of the book. The Zionist Archives prepared the display as part of a four-day international conference on Herzl cosponsored by the two universities. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Telecommunications museum for Haifa
A telecommunications museum will be established in Haifa by the municipality, Bezeq and Leon Recanati at a total cost of NIS 3 million, it was announced yesterday at a meeting in the office of Mayor Amram Mitzna.

The museum will be part of the Recanati National Science Museum on the old Technion campus in the Hadar quarter. Like the science museum, the new wing will be a hands-on museum in which visitors may try out technological devices and services. *Judy Siegel*

Israel, Jordan finalizing grid hookup
Israel and Jordan have finished preparations for linking the electricity grids of Eilat and Akaba, Israel Electric Corporation general manager Rafi Peled said yesterday.

Peled said company workers had just installed an 8 km-long high-voltage cable from Eilat to the Arava border crossing, where it will voltage cable from the Jordanian side. Israel is now working out an agreement for the mutual sale of electricity between the two cities. *Itm*

El Al managing director resigns

HAIM SHAPIRO

EL AL managing director Rafi Harlev yesterday announced his resignation from the company he has headed for over 13 years, citing the reason as the failure of the government to privatize the airline as promised.

He said that without going private, it would be difficult for El Al to compete and grow in the international aviation market.

In a letter to El Al board chairman Yossi Ciechanover and the transportation and finance ministers, Harlev said his resignation would take effect this June.

He took over as head of the national airline as it went into receivership following a four-month closure.

It began showing a profit in 1986, with \$14 million in profits in 1994 and an estimated profit of \$17m. in 1995.

6 Ethiopians have donated blood since non-use policy was revealed

JUDY SIEGEL

ONLY six Ethiopian immigrants have donated blood since it was disclosed the blood is not used.

All six pints have been frozen pending recommendations by the Navon Committee, investigating Magen David Adom's policy of not informing the donors their blood would be discarded.

The committee, which yesterday toured MDA's central blood bank in Tel Hashomer, is expected to complete its work in about

three weeks.

Blood bank officials said the problem with the Ethiopian blood donations was they had not been told they must report if their blood was medically suitable for transfusion or not.

The standard MDA questionnaire that is filled out by all potential donors - and does not mention Ethiopians as a disqualifying category - has raised the ire of hard-core donors, the committee learned.

Group to market youth programs

AN agreement was signed yesterday in Jerusalem establishing a new consortium for the marketing and expansion of Israel programs for North American Jewish youth.

The organization, as yet unnamed, was formed after a lengthy investigation by the Jewish Agency, the Charles R. Bronfman Foundation, the Council of Jewish Federations and the United Jewish Appeal. The initial annual budget is \$2 million.

Bronfman will be the first chairman of the new organization and will serve for a five-year term. *Baitsheva Tsur*

Lake Kinneret, temperatures on rise

DAVID RUDGE

MEKOROT officials are still advising water conservation measures for the summer, despite a slight improvement in the hydrological balance as a result of the recent rains.

The level of the water in Lake Kinneret continues to creep upwards and yesterday was 1.16 meters from its maximum mark.

Nevertheless, the officials noted that it would take a great deal more "unexpected but welcome rainfall" in the coming weeks to

fill the lake to the brim.

The forecast for today and Thursday is for dry and warm weather.

"There has been a significant improvement, but neither the Kinneret, the reservoirs, nor the aquifers are full and therefore it will still be necessary to conserve water," said Mekorot spokeswoman Yael Shoham.

The latest rain helped bring the total precipitation for the winter to near average for the season, although not everywhere.

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PA officials' terror crackdown making progress

PALESTINIAN Authority security officers assert that they are now capable of foiling 90 percent of attacks planned against Israel from their territory.

A leader of the Palestinian security services told *The Jerusalem Post* that in the past three weeks they have cracked the infrastructure of Hamas's military wing, Izzadin Kassam, and have arrested most of its leaders.

He said the information collected has given the PA a much better insight into how Hamas and Islamic Jihad operate. Israel, he added, understands nothing about the structure of Hamas.

The security officer, who asked not to be named, said Palestinians

consider it unfortunate that Israel is linking the continuing halt in the Oslo process to the capture of Izzadin Kassam leader Mohammed Dief, who is held responsible for planning the most recent terrorist atrocities.

He said the Palestinian side is not willing to share its information with the Israelis until they agree to lift the closure of the territories and restart implementing Oslo 2.

He said that while it is in the interest of both sides to cooperate on security issues and share information, the process cannot be one-sided.

The security source said the PA crackdown on Hamas was also aimed at ensuring stability in

Palestinian areas and protecting the Oslo agreement, but it was not seen as fair to expect the PA to deliver Dief in a matter of weeks when it took Israel years to capture some wanted Palestinians in Gaza.

He expressed resentment at statements by IDF officers saying that only low-level Izzadin Kassam activists had been rounded up. He said the PA has arrested about 400 in Gaza, among them Izzadin Kassam leaders wanted by Israel for many years, and about 100 of those caught will be tried within the next three months.

The source said the most important gain made by the PA in the last three weeks has been the

BACKGROUND
LAMA LAHOUD

information gathered through interrogation.

A high ranking PA security officer in the territories said Izzadin Kassam's infrastructure has been badly damaged but he acknowledged that the capture of Dief would make it easier politically for the Israeli government to proceed with Oslo.

Most Izzadin Kassam leaders are in Gaza, he said, but they recruit operators in the territories where large quantities of weapons have also been found.

The security officer said the new Islamic party announced in Gaza last week, the Islamic

Salvation Front, includes political figures from Hamas.

He said the PA welcomed an Islamic opposition which rejects violence, and that the Front would not protect Hamas activists suspected of links with Izzadin Kassam from arrest.

But the officer said it is difficult to penetrate the financial network that feeds Hamas, since it has developed sophisticated ways of channeling money in from around the world.

Another officer of the PA's Preventive Security Service said Hamas laundered money through bona-fide businessmen and legal organizations such as Islamic non-government organizations (NGOs).

As with all such operations, the difficulty is in tracing the original source and purpose of such money and it is not realistic simply to close all Islamic institutions offering social services, he said. Even bankers handling money that reaches Izzadin Kassam may not know to whom the money is being sent.

He said the closure had not prevented Izzadin Kassam from getting funds flowing through Islamic institutions and bank accounts both abroad and inside Israel.

The PA would try to replace the Islamic institutions and provide welfare help through its own organizations, a PA official said.

A source close to the interna-

tional donors said the PA wants to change the laws governing the activities of local NGOs now acting independently.

It favored a system similar to Egypt's where even NGOs must report all dealings to the interior ministry.

The World Bank has proposed setting up a social fund to channel money to Palestinian NGOs as well as PA institutions.

It would thus come under the system of checks used for all donor money and offer the PA a way to replace Islamists in offering social services. Once such a social fund is established, the World Bank would persuade donors to pay its annual budget, the source said.

UN suspects Iraq has hidden lethal missiles to be fired at Israel

A United Nations commission suspects that Iraq has hidden between six and 16 ballistic missiles capable of being fired at Israel, Kuwait or Saudi Arabia with warheads containing lethal nerve agents or germ weapons. UN and US officials say.

UN investigators believe the medium-range missiles are probably being stored on Iraqi trucks and shuttled between military installations under the command of a government organization determined to keep them out of sight, according to Swedish Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, who chairs the UN Special Commission on Iraq.

Ekeus said the UN commission's new concern about these missiles helps explain its recent confrontations with the Iraqi government, including five attempts last week by Iraqi authorities to deny UN investigators' access to government buildings suspected of harboring launchers or other evidence related to the missiles.

Those confrontations provoked two censures of Iraq by the president of the UN Security Council, including a statement last week criticizing the "unacceptable" delays faced by commission personnel in inspecting three facilities near Baghdad that are controlled by the Iraqi Republican Guard.

Ekeus told the Senate subcom-

mittee on permanent investigations that "we have a problem" because Iraq insists it has no such missiles, and seems determined to prevent their destruction despite its pledge to comply with a 1991 Security Council resolution prohibiting any Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Explaining the context for the commission's concerns, Ekeus noted that Iraq has so far given up an estimated \$75 billion in oil revenues because of the economic sanctions that, by general agreement, are to be lifted only when Iraq fully accounts for all the missiles and other weapons it is suspected of developing or acquiring.

Iraq's apparent aim in forgoing this immense revenue has been to protect these weapons or the capability to produce them, Ekeus said. "This raises the significance... of the missing pieces enormously."

The UN's expression of concern represents a turnaround from its statements in 1994 and early 1995 that Iraq evidently had destroyed all of its ballistic missiles. The shift stems from Iraq's abrupt disclosure last year that it had accumulated more ballistic missiles than the UN previously believed, by producing some on its own in addition to buy-some from foreign suppliers.

The missiles that the UN is now looking for are modified versions of the Scuds that Iraq purchased

from the Soviet Union during the 1980s, and each has a range of 600 kilometers. Similar missiles with conventional warheads were fired from mobile launchers at Saudi Arabia and Israel during the Gulf War.

After the war, Iraq initially denied that it had also produced warheads containing lethal chemical and biological agents.

But the August 1995 defection of Jordanian Hussein Kamel, a senior Iraqi weapons official, provoked officials in Baghdad to turn over previously hidden evidence that it had indeed produced 25 Scud warheads filled with botulinum toxin and bacteria capable of causing anthrax disease, as well as 50 warheads filled with chemical nerve agents. Kamel was killed when he returned to Iraq last month.

The materials Iraq used in these warheads are among the most deadly substances known. But Iraq claimed they had all been secretly destroyed after the Gulf war ended in 1991.

UN suspicions that these warheads may still exist are largely based on Iraq's failure to turn over documents that corroborate the claim that they were destroyed, such as specific orders by the Iraqi leadership, Ekeus said. "All our experience is that these decisions are carefully registered" in Iraqi

documents, and the absence of these documents raises grave questions.

A US official said that Washington shared Ekeus's concerns. "Seven months after Iraq's admission, there are still no documents.... Your suspicion has to grow that [the weapons] still exist." Washington is particularly concerned that the Iraqi Al-Amin Al-Khass (Special Security Force) is managing the country's effort to keep the missiles hidden, the official said.

In the UN effort last week, inspection teams were dispatched without advance notice to a Baghdad building suspected of housing missile procurement documents and to four facilities controlled by the Iraqi Republican Guard. "We know the efforts to hide these missiles have been linked to these institutions and organizations," Ekeus said.

At several of the facilities, delays ranging from two to 18 hours ensued before inspection teams were finally allowed inside, and no missiles were found.

CIA director John M. Deutch, who also appeared before the subcommittee, said that if the delays become routine, Iraqi officials will have "ample opportunity to destroy relevant documents, remove suspect material, and ulti-



Hussein Khalaf celebrates - at the Iraqi embassy in Amman in October of last year - Saddam Hussein's re-election to a new term as president. Jordan announced it had expelled Khalaf, an Iraqi assistant press attache, for behavior incompatible with his diplomatic status - usually a reference to spying. (Reuters)

The diverse Middle East communities of the US

THERE have been reports of Lebanese Moslems and Christians settling in California and exploiting their religion. Some of these people have posed as clergy but are in fact totally ignorant in religious matters.

Others have become informers for American security agencies.

In general, the Arab population of California is quite fragmented and lacks any unified leadership. While there are distinguished Moslem and Christian clerics, there are also cases of others making easy profits under the pretense of fundraising for religious and humanitarian causes.

Among Californian Arabs is an Egyptian community in Los Angeles which publishes Arabic-language newspapers. Of special note are the Egyptian Copts whose involvement with the Palestinian cause outstrips even that of Palestinian exiles. After Californian Palestinians suffered some harassment, the Copts helped form an anti-discrimination committee.

The Palestinian community in California is the second biggest in the United States after that of Chicago.

There are also many Iraqi refugees in the US, especially in Chicago and Michigan. Many of them arrived after the unsuccessful rebellion by southern Shi'ites which followed the Gulf War, or they have come from the Rafia refugee camp on the border of Iraq and Saudi Arabia where US immigration officials granted them entry visas.

Iranian immigrants in the US come from all political streams - from monarchists to supporters of the current regime and members of the rebel Mujahideen Khalk organization.

Mujahideen members, as fanatical opponents of the Teheran regime, are the most politically active and have been accused of violence against other Iranian immigrants.

A unique community is the Shirazim - people of Iranian origin who lived in Iraq. These are followers of Ayatollah Mohammed Shirazi - an Iraqi-Iranian cleric who formerly lived in the Shi'ite holy city of Kerbala and whose brother Hassan Shirazi was murdered in Lebanon.

The Shirazim have their headquarters in Los Angeles and they also have chapters in San Diego and Washington. They also vie for influence among Iraqis and Lebanese living in San Diego. (Al Diar, Lebanon)

El-Bashir vows no retreat from Islam

NEWS AGENCIES
KHARTOUM

BEFORE thousands of dancing supporters, Sudan's newly elected president scoffed at the threat of UN sanctions and promised to build an Islamic society.

Thousands of Sudanese, many of them chanting, singing and playing drums, surged into downtown Khartoum at the weekend to celebrate Lt-Gen. Omar el-Bashir's victory in elections he had been expected to win. The victory confirmed him in the role he assumed when he overthrew Sudan's elected government in 1989.

Addressing crowds at the Republican Palace, el-Bashir called himself the president of all Sudanese and said he would not allow the return of political parties, which were banned after the coup.

"Threats and plots will never deter us from pursuing our policy," said el-Bashir, wearing a traditional Sudanese white gown. "All the world has to know we are not letting the banner of Shari'a fall because it has been immersed in the blood of our martyrs, our brothers and our sons."

In the announced results el-Bashir got 75% of the vote in his bid for a five-year term. He faced 40 little-known candidates during the March 6-17 balloting, and his closest opponent received just 2.4% of the vote.

The real power in Sudan, however, is believed to be Hassan Turabi, a Moslem fundamentalist cleric who won a parliamentary seat in the elections.

He previously did not hold an official position, but has guided efforts to rigorously apply Islamic law.

The elections were the first in Sudan since 1986. Opposition leaders, including former prime minister Sadiq el-Mahdi, dis-

missed them as a crude attempt to legitimize the Islamic regime.

Southern rebels, mainly Christians and followers of tribal faiths who are opposed to Islamic law, also urged a boycott.

Most candidates elected to the new 400-seat National Assembly are el-Bashir's supporters.

In Cairo, the Sudanese opposition in exile said the turnout in the presidential and parliamentary elections was only 5%, not 72.2% as stated by the official commission.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which advised Sudanese to boycott the elections, also said the government had decided the results in advance.

The NDA includes the two big traditional Sudanese parties, the Umma and the Democratic Unionists, as well as the southern rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

The NDA again dubbed the poll "a desperate attempt to legitimize an isolated dictatorship rejected by the Sudanese people and the international community."

It did not say how it was able to estimate the rate of voter participation, though the alliance does have an extensive presence in Sudan. Many prominent but inactive politicians living in Khartoum are de-facto members, but cannot say so in public.

The elections in Sudan came amid deepening economic problems caused in part by a 13-year civil war in the south and Sudan's growing isolation from Egypt and its east African neighbors, which accuse it of supporting Moslem rebels within their borders.

The UN has threatened sanctions over Sudan's failure to turn over three men wanted for attempting to kill President Hosni Mubarak last June.

Arafat's regional isolation grows

ANALYSIS
PINHAS INBARI

THE government's decision to stop work on the Hebron-Jerusalem bypass is meant to emphasize Israel's resolve not to evacuate Hebron on time unless the Palestinians change their covenant, and bring Izzadin Kassam terrorist Mohammed Dief to trial.

The real implication runs deeper, raising doubts as to whether Yasser Arafat will be able at all to spread his authority to the West Bank, or whether he can overcome the "West Bank obstacle" on his planned way to Jerusalem.

If this is so, the final status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians may not only miss their scheduled start in May, but they may see a tectonic shift toward the idea of an all-Arab delegation negotiating on behalf of the Palestinians.

Jerusalem is a bone of contention not only between Israel and the Palestinians, but between the Palestinians and other Arabs, who do not consider Jerusalem to be the exclusive domain of the Palestinians. This can be seen behind the scenes of the current PA-Jordan struggle on security matters.

While Israel and Washington try to involve Jordan in anti-Hamas coordination with the PA, the Palestinians consider this an attempt to restore Jordan to the West Bank through a rear security door.

After the last blitz of suicidal terrorism, Arafat was pushed into a corner by Israel and the US.

to stay responsible for West Bank security, Arafat could count Amman out.

Rajoub did not trust Arafat and began to carp about him. Rajoub told a meeting of Palestinian police chiefs in Jericho: "All of us are being turned into spies for Israel in Arafat's company." Arafat's reaction was characteristically swift; he called Rajoub, told him to "go home" and called Hussein Sheikh, once Rajoub's deputy and now responsible for criminal investigations in Ramallah, as a replacement.

What Arafat did not take into account was that he has lost his power over Rajoub, who declined to obey. The security man supposed to pave Arafat's way in the West Bank turned out to be his first stumbling block.

At the same time, regional security coordination started immediately after the Sharm e-Sheikh conference - but without the participation of the PA. Jordan, Egypt, the US and Britain are members of a club that has denied entrance to Arafat.

We can sense Arafat's frustration from the timing of his decision to abolish the name West Bank in favor of "northern districts of Palestine."

"West Bank" preserves the memory of Jordan's rule, "northern districts" reminds everyone of the new rule in Gaza. It is highly doubtful that changes in terminology will help Arafat out of his plight now.

One of his claims was that Jordan was the rear base for Hamas logistics.

What he wanted was to relieve the pressure and shift it toward Jordan. What he got was demands by Israel and Washington to improve his relations with Amman to improve coordination on antiterrorist matters.

But it seems Arafat considers sharing security coordination with Jordan would give Amman an excuse to be involved in final status issues such as Jerusalem and refugees.

Two Jordanian ministers indeed went to Gaza and their visit shed unexpected light on Arafat's weakness as a partner in regional security and raised doubts whether he had any ability to control the West Bank after solidly establishing himself in Gaza.

On regional coordination, Arafat showed no inclination to allow Jordan to be involved in his campaign against Hamas. Nonetheless, the mere fact of this meeting with the Jordanians aroused the suspicion of his senior security man in the West Bank, Jibril Rajoub.

Rajoub correctly assumed that any coordination between Arafat and Jordan would be at his expense; the Jordanians steadfastly refuse to have any sort of contact with him. So, if he was

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Lost for words

HELEN MOTRO

I hit the nadir of my linguistic life when a writer friend in the US remarked: "Your last letter sounded like it was from someone writing English as a second language..."

I felt tawdry and marginal, like a charity guest dressed up in last year's suit, clutching a free ticket to the ball.

Back in the US for a trip I had become heady on the press, drunk on the theater. I loved the buzz around me on the train, the background hum in restaurants - the indefinable familiar cadences of one's native tongue, comforting even without distinguishing individual words.

It became a treat just to hear a conversation and understand it all - even more to speak and know I had absolute control over what came out of my mouth.

But what leapt out from that friend's remark made me see I had been kidding myself.

To American ears that haven't, like mine, spent seasons out of touch, I have taken on the grating overtones of a foreigner. Even the best of my phrases fall just a millimeter off the mark.

This seems a poor paraphrase of recent government statements. The only thing that makes it relevant is that it comes from an interview I gave to the Italian daily *Avvenire* in October 1994, after the terrorist attack on bus No. 5 on Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv.

Today, more than 16 months on and many hundreds of civilian deaths and wounded from terrorism later, it is not only a frustrating but a frightening thought that someone like myself, without access to secret information, who practices a profession remote from politics, can arrive at what in retrospect seems a much more realistic assessment of the future than that of those in power.

If an outsider's rigid analysis, using business strategy methods, can be more reliable than the analyses of Israel's top politicians, we're in big trouble.

What is tragic is that the few sources (among many) I have quoted above point up the gravity of the problem: Those in charge were aware of the situation, but preferred to close their eyes to the warnings.

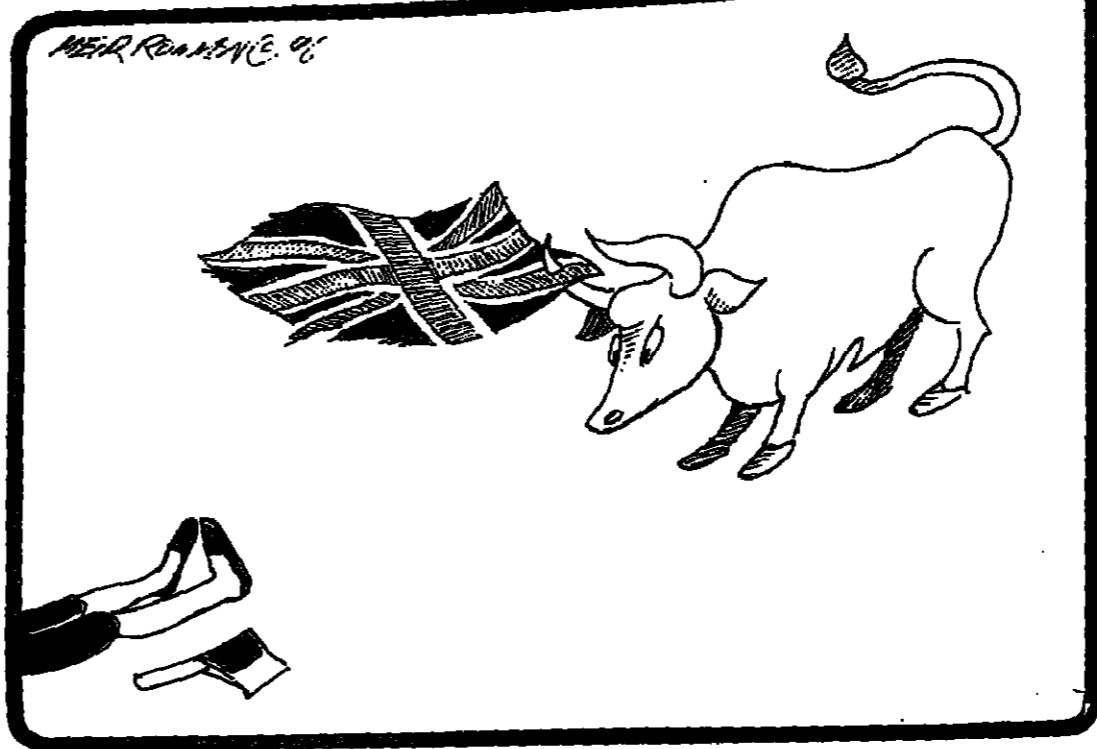
Hefetz made another forecast on Dizengoff after the recent bombing: "From now on, it will be like this. We will have an ongoing number of terrorist attacks."

The Yom Kippur War led to the Agranat commission of inquiry which had to collect its material largely from hidden sources. On Oslo and what followed much material is already out in the open.

Those who are likely to be found guilty will fight to put off the day of judgment until, after many more dead and wounded, it becomes unavoidable.

It is in the nation's interest to work up enough public pressure so that the inquiry can start immediately.

The writer is an international business strategist and author of *Israel's New Future-Interviews*.



Those who are guilty

MANFRED GERSTENFELD

A few houses up the road from my home is where the public inquiry commission meets to investigate the security failures that made the Rabin murder possible. From my window I can see the guards watching the building.

Hearing from many sides that we must internalize the recent major terror attacks with great restraint, I have now started to view events next door from another perspective.

The Rabin murder was terrible emotionally. But analyzed rationally, it was the murder of one man, albeit a prime minister, by one fanatic, albeit an Israeli.

The commission next door is investigating a momentary security failure. That was also the case with the commission that looked into the murderous acts of another lone fanatic, Baruch Goldstein.

The commission inquiring into the Sabra and Shatilla massacre, committed by Lebanese Christians, also dealt with an event which took place during a brief period.

In contrast, the Israeli security and political judgment failures which have made the latest terrorist attacks so effective from Hamas's point of view are not isolated events.

If we compare them to the above-mentioned incidents, we confront a quantum leap in government misjudgment and negligence. An almost random newspaper selection, based on sources within or close to the government, bears this out.

In a recent interview with Ma'ariv, former head of Israeli military intelligence Gen. Uri Saguy stated that while in his post, he told both late prime minister Rabin and then foreign minister Shimon Peres that there were clear signs of a Lebanon-like situation developing in Gaza. Peres' reply: "You are destroying my peace."

To this Saguy retorted: "I bring you a bad message, and you shoot at the messenger. It is not my task to build or destroy your peace. I have to draw a realistic picture."

A few months ago Jacques Neriah, a former senior Rabin adviser, withdrew his book of memoirs shortly before it was to be published. But several chapters appeared in *Yedioth Aharonot*, and they reveal some of the negligence on the Israeli side in the original Oslo negotiations.

It is not too early to call for a commission of inquiry on Oslo

IN A recent weekend issue *Yedioth* went into detail over how the program Minister Shahal presented to the government in April 1995 to prevent or reduce terrorism had been continuously delayed for a variety of reasons. "I can only regret the time wasted," the minister said. He ought to have said "lives wasted."

Police chief Assaf Hefetz noted that he and his people had pointed out from the beginning of the political process that catastrophes would result from the negligence of the Palestinian Authority: "The police had a number of meetings with decision-makers in the army and security forces in which they said: 'We know that old mines in the Gaza Strip are being dismantled and new bombs prepared from the explosives... The terrorists collect these materials. There is nobody to prevent them from doing so. I was at the meetings where these things were said.'"

One more quote: "We are getting close to an intolerable situation with foreseeable consequences: a brake on the autonomy process, and a definitive closure of the Gaza frontier to Palestinian workers. There is the possibility of the army entering the autonomy

The writer is an international business strategist and author of *Israel's New Future-Interviews*.

Suspicious triumphs

THE almost daily bulletins of spectacular feats performed by the Palestinian Authority in its anti-terrorist campaign are nothing short of breathtaking. Hearing PA security officers assuring the press that after two weeks of arrests, searches and interrogations they are now capable of foiling no less than "90 percent of attacks planned against Israel," Israelis must wonder why it has taken the PA so long to act.

It is now 31 months since Yasser Arafat committed himself to fighting terrorism and punishing anyone resorting to violence against Israel. In fact, the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin would not have signed the Oslo agreement had he not received this commitment in writing. Yet only now, 213 fatalities and hundreds of wounded later (not counting Palestinian "collaborators" murdered by Arafat's men despite his promise to let them be), has the PA presumably begun to clamp down on the terrorists in earnest.

Israelis may be forgiven, then, for feeling less than sanguine about these triumphs against Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Considering the history of the PA's efforts, it is difficult to escape the suspicion that the PA's bombastic daily announcements and cocky assurances are designed mainly to placate Israeli and American opinion rather than disable the Islamists.

Stories about sudden discoveries of plots against the PA itself seem particularly suspicious. And staged interviews with killers who say that their main goal is to bring the Likud to power, or with would-be suicides who claim that they have been driven to despair by hunger caused by the closure, do not inspire confidence in the seriousness of the PA efforts. Nor do Arafat's continued claims of "proof" that Israeli army "extremists" have collaborated in the suicide bombings.

On the contrary, such acts tend to reinforce the feeling of deja vu. The mass arrests and stories of nefarious plots, secret cells and huge arms caches seem merely an improved version of what the PA had always done following terrorist incidents.

Yesterday, another "sensational" discovery was announced: Palestinian police uncovered a secret Hamas network dedicated "to attacking Israel and weakening Arafat." And it was Mohammed Dahlan, Arafat's senior security aide himself, who gave this sensational news to Reuters. The plot, he said, "came to light during questioning of suspects detained in the crackdown on Hamas."

To skeptics this may appear like an amazingly propitious discovery, for it seems to refute Israeli charges that the PA is not unhappy about

Hamas and Jihad activities. Nor does the rest of the announcement serve to alleviate suspicions. For Dahlan carefully assures Israelis that these newly found "secret cells" are far more dangerous than such wanted terrorists as Mohammed Dief and Yahya Ghoul who are urgently wanted by Israel. Dief, wanted for masterminding the latest bus bombings, is the terrorist on whose arrest by the PA Israel has conditioned the evacuation of Hebron. Clearly, Dahlan is trying to rationalize failing to arrest Dief (a close friend) by claiming he has found a much more dangerous cell.

It can only be hoped that the government will not again fall for this transparent Palestinian charade. The fact is that there is no "born again" Palestinian Authority. There is almost no qualitative difference between what the PA is doing now and what it did in the past. In trying to convince Congress that the PA has reformed, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Robert Pelletreau assured the House International Relations Committee that on March 3 "Arafat and the PA outlawed the military wings of Islamic movements and all other paramilitary organizations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

Unfortunately, this is simply not true. Arafat said he would consider putting an eye on these organizations and monitoring their activities, but he never issued anything like an order to outlaw them. (Pelletreau can hardly be blamed for this misinformation. The PLO's Abu Mazen himself had falsely announced that these organizations have been outlawed.)

Both American and Israeli officials deny knowledge of an agreement between the PLO and Hamas, but there is no longer any doubt about its existence. Last Friday, Professor Yoshihisa Porat, the country's leading expert on the Middle East (who as a former Meretz Knesset candidate can hardly be suspected of political motives), unequivocally asserted that such an agreement exists. It is an "understanding" which gives tacit PLO consent to Hamas strikes against Israel as long as they are not launched from PA-ruled areas, or at least not acknowledged to originate there.

If Israel again hastily praises Arafat for his efforts, and neither demands that he assume responsibility for all terrorist acts committed by Palestinians, nor threatens to suspend further negotiations and withdrawals until terrorist activity stops, Arafat will have no incentive to fight terror. On the contrary. He will continue to use the killings as he has used them in the past: to urge an acceleration of the process and demand larger contributions for the PA. It is time Israel saw through this and put an end to it.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VISITING DIGNITARIES

Sir, - I fondly remember the day Sadat came to Jerusalem. My neighbors and I lined the street in anticipation of glimpsing the motorcade. Jerusalemites were excited. The atmosphere was festive. That was then and this is now.

Now, when I hear of a head of state coming to visit, I involuntarily think only of Alcatraz or solitary confinement. The municipality sends out leaflets very politely informing us that this might be a good day to stay in bed. My kids, if they arrive at school at all, are usually dropped off "somewhere" and hike home by themselves. When your kids are seven and nine, you wonder if this is what is meant as a growing experience. Going to work? Parking your car? Expecting a delivery? Forget it. Meeting an overseas visitor? Have to be in Tel Aviv? Want to drive to Mevasseret? Please put your life on hold.

From motorcades to marathons, in a capital that is not officially recognized, the government announces, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem..." I sit on my balcony pondering "Do not pass go, do not collect \$200, go directly to jail."

RACHEL BLASS
Jerusalem.

CATTY

Sir, - Shame on Allan Shapiro and the editors of *The Jerusalem Post* for his snarling attack on the investigative techniques of Ilana Dayan ("Media's role as arbiter," March 15). He is entitled to his opinion of her handling of the chief-of-staff, but his use of offensively sexist terms, "female rowntwriter" and "bitch," should have been muzzled.

I personally appreciated her forthright questions - questions I would have asked myself, had I been given the task of interviewing Lt-Gen. Shabak, and which led us beyond the usual slogans and pat answers which did not suit the situation. But agree or not, criticism should have been directed at the issue, not the person (or female). It made Shapiro seem so catty.

A. BECKER
Petah Tikva.

IN THE LINEAGE OF PROPHECY

Sir, - Susan Hattis Roloff's article of March 5, "The dialogue has to go on" was undoubtedly in keeping with the Jewish tradition of prophecy. The prophets of the Jewish faith always spoke out against the voices of the unsettled masses, trying to lead them to a place of stability and safety. The prophets were the ones who, in the midst of calamity, maintained rationality. They were the ones who recognized that when the masses lost their common sense temporarily, someone needed to remind them of their faith in God and human wisdom.

In the lineage of true prophecy, Ms. Roloff has unequivocally chosen peace rather than violence, justice rather than revenge, and reconciliation "with" others rather than victory "over" them. Only prophets of peace like Susan Hattis Roloff can maintain and perpetuate such an honorable stance in the midst of tragedy and terror. Ms. Roloff demonstrated that only by maintaining an inner peace can we contribute to external peaceful solutions. I hope her words will not fall on deaf ears, but rather, will be taken up by the entire Jewish community as a challenge to accept their role as prophets as well.

BRO. DAVID BERCELI M.M.
Bethlehem.

NATIONAL PRIDE

Sir, - At the Sharm e-Sheikh Conference, every leader spoke in his native language: Clinton in English, Yeltsin in Russian, the Arab notables in Arabic, etc. On-the-spot simultaneous translation was available to all.

Only one leader lacked elementary national pride. Our prime minister addressed the meeting, not in Hebrew, but in a foreign tongue.

Happily, President Weizman does not suffer from this inferiority complex. His refusal - overriding Peres's admonishment - to welcome President Clinton anywhere but in Jerusalem, Israel's capital, is doubly heart-warming.

EDGAR SAPPHIRE
Givatayim.

SUPPORT FROM ABROAD

Sir, - On March 3, Stewart Weiss wrote a plea to American parents (this before the two terrible terror attacks of Sunday and Monday) to send their daughters to study in Israel because of the terror attacks and the need for Diaspora Jewry to show solidarity with Israel.

I too work with young women who come to study in Israel. I too wish that young women will continue to choose to study in Jerusalem - but not, God forbid, as sacrifices to a cause. No parent should be asked to show his support for Israel by offering his child on the altar. Students come to Jerusalem to study each year in large numbers, because Jerusalem affords opportunities to learn, to experience the depth of Jewish life, to enmesh oneself in the atmosphere of the ancient and modern Jerusalem, to grow and develop as a Jew. Hopefully, the vast opportunities afforded by this experience will outweigh the perceived dangers of life in Jerusalem.

I applaud those from abroad who show their solidarity by continuing to visit Israel during these times of crisis. I appreciate those who call and fax, just to say they are thinking of us and are concerned for us. I hope that parents will not allow their fears to overcome them and call their daughters home. But I understand their fears.

We, who have chosen to make Israel our home, often live with fear. We understood this to be a part of Jewish life in a land not yet free from enemies. Each of us came to our own decisions to make aliya after fully considering the dangers. Our ideological commitment outweighs our fears - even when our fears are considerable. It is wonderful when Jews from abroad can accept the same harsh realities and show their support. It is even more wonderful when we can all enjoy the benefits of living in Jerusalem or visiting it.

SHOSHANA SOLOW,
Dean,
Gold College for Women
Jerusalem.

After all the excitement

THIS week, with the two major parties and Meretz holding primaries, criticism of this new departure in Israeli electoral politics has reached new heights.

Its main thrust is fully justified: but one needs to recall just why primaries were instituted in our major parties, replacing the previous drawing up of candidates' lists by the Israeli equivalent of the "smoke-filled backrooms" of party bosses in US politics.

The most immediate cause of the change was the parties' frantic response to widespread public revulsion from party politics. This came about as a result of the dirty "buying" of MKs which marked Shimon Peres's failed 1990 attempt to replace the then unity government with a Labor coalition, with himself as prime minister.

Remember the slogan "Enough! We've had it with all of you!" which swept the country? That slogan and the public atmosphere it reflected were instrumental in getting the law for direct election of the premier adopted a year-and-a-half later.

To this one must add the growing "personalization" of Israeli politics, in contrast to the previous emphasis on ideology and issues.

The media has made much of claims by many contenders that the task of persuading scores of thousands of party members to choose them imposed an intolerable burden on those contenders. To which one might retort, like Harry Truman, "If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen."

But the problems created by the primaries are far more serious. On the party level they work against the holding of a balanced list, both in aiming for a Knesset faction marked by a balance of personal and professional qualities in

YOSEF GOELL

future MKs, and in achieving a balanced ticket that could hope to win votes for the party.

Party leaders have been trying to cancel out this drawback by establishing quotas for women, Arabs, and new immigrants.

An even more serious criticism of the primaries is that the qualities needed to compete successfully in them - the megalomaniac

Now we've seen the primaries at work, let's think again

drive for exposure, the resort to the basest gimmicks, the fawning on narrow interest groups and to middlemen who promise to deliver blocs of voters - are opposed to the qualities required of a properly functioning MK.

IT IS no secret that the level of MKs from nearly all parties in recent Knessets has deteriorated markedly from that of our early parliaments.

Nearly no men or women of moral stature, with impressive records of accomplishment, the kind we should be attracting to serve as MKs will agree to debate themselves and waste their time by running in primaries.

Conclusion: If we persist with the primaries system, we will be getting not so much second-best, but very often close to worst.

And this at a time when it is more important than ever to strengthen the Knesset vis-a-vis a stronger popularly elected prime minister.

A stronger Knesset means one whose members will assert their

independence of the executive, as well as their determination to fulfill the Knesset's role as its overseer.

That can only come about if candidates of stature are attracted to run for the Knesset - and that will not happen as long as we insist on holding primaries.

A further reason to oppose primaries is the high cost of all the gimmicks needed to run and win in them.

For the first time in Israel's electoral history, a premium has been placed on having a lot of money and being willing to spend it on one's own primary campaign, or that of a beholden MK.

Office holders have already been tempted to make illegal use of their organizations' budgets to fund their personal primary campaign.

The alternative to primaries? It isn't returning to the party bosses' nominating committees. Primaries could be retained in local races for those parts of the major party lists that are made up of regional or sectoral constituencies.

But candidates for the "national lists" who aspire to cabinet posts and national leadership should be chosen by party central committees.

The oligarchic drawback of this solution should be balanced by a truly democratic reform: granting voters in national elections the power to cross out, write in and rearrange the order of candidates on the lists for which they vote.

In the past this would have been technically impossible. With today's computers, it is a cinch. It would also challenge our party politicians to give voters the real and final say in who makes up the Knesset.

The writer comments on current affairs.

Help! My language is running away, and I can't catch up

OVID, banished to the Balkans, begged the Emperor Augustus to be allowed back to Rome, to no avail: He died in exile. Dante was thrown out of his beloved Florence, and for ever dreamed and wrote about it.

But he was banished only a few kilometers away to Padua, even though in his lifetime he was never allowed to set foot in his city again. He was in the same province, with the same customs, and, above all, the same language.

Maybe that was still more cruel a fate: to be within a stone's throw of what you love and have it forever out of reach?

Unlike me, I can hop on a jumbo any Saturday and in 12 hours be at the newstand, just when the shows are letting out, in time to buy the early edition of the *Sunday Times*. Do I savor them more because I can read only a handful of Sunday papers, instead of all 52?

Isabelle Allende is now living in California - will she be able to produce a *House of the Spirits* set in the San Joaquin Valley? And who heard much from Alexander Solzhenitsyn after he moved from Russia to Vermont? Now that he is back east, will his ink start to flow; again, or has long exile frozen it for good?

But what of Joseph Conrad who wrote in his adopted tongue? And the recently-deceased Joseph Brodsky, winner of the Nobel Prize for writings in both his first and second tongues? Should I throw in my own face the gorgeous fragrant English prose of Vladimir Nabokov? Can I really evoke New England while hunched over a yellow pad in Jerusalem?

Henry Miller recreated Brooklyn while sitting in a Parisian attic. But my average mind cannot reach backwards through space as well as time and charge my calcified English synapses back into life.

Sometimes I doubt my strength to make the dry bones live. Still, I will aim high: for poignancy and for truth, and for elements of style.

The writer is a lawyer who lives in Kfar Shmaryahu.

Wednesday, March 27, 1996
Lost for words
 HELEN MOTRO



Where there's smoke...

PARENTING
 RUTH MASON

Sometimes enjoy smoking marijuana. I know how that's looked upon here, but I came of age in the Sixties in the US, and for us it was just a part of life. I've seen no detrimental effects from occasional marijuana use. To me, it's like having a glass of wine, something that a responsible adult can do from time to time.

My problem is this: I have three children aged 11, 13 and 14. I don't smoke in front of them, but I don't know how I would handle the situation if they were to walk in on me and see me smoking. Should I just tell them what I'm doing? If marijuana were legal, as it is in some countries, I would have no problem with that. But because it is illegal here, I keep what I do a secret from them. What should I say to them if they ever catch me in the act?

Hilorie Baer, MSW, individual and family therapist with a specialty in addiction, replies:

Avoid smoking under circumstances in which your children may chance to appear, because any response you give will be problematic.

If you decide to keep it secret from them and not explain what it is, they will conclude that it is a secret thing that Mom or Dad does in the bedroom. That kind of interpretation can be very confusing and/or anxiety-provoking for children.

If they see you, they may spend

a lot of time wondering about questions like these: What is Mom doing? Why does she have that look on her face when I walk into the room? What is that weird smell? Why won't she tell me what it is?

If you can't respond directly to their questions, you leave a lot of room for their imaginations to work.

On the other hand, telling a 12- or 13-year-old what you are doing and why you are doing it in secret is problematic in two ways. By telling them, you are expecting them to understand, integrate and feel comfortable with the fact that their parent is doing something illegal.

The other problem with telling them is that, unless you feel comfortable with your kids revealing this information outside the home, you'll have to bring them into your secret. They'll have to keep it a secret as well, and that will put pressure on them. That's too much of a burden for a child.

But if you do smoke in the house and they do become aware of it, deal with it as you would were a child to walk in on your having sexual intercourse. Evaluate how much they can take in, but basically say, "This is something private, and that's why I close the door." Don't go into too much detail. The focus should be on relieving potential anxiety.

If you have a question about parenting, write to: Parenting, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000

Music makes these teens go round

The Kiryat Yam Youth Orchestra gives teenagers with no musical background the chance of a lifetime, Sylvia Benjamin-Lief writes

TEN-year-old Hava Mashasha says "I used to take a broom and imagine it to be my guitar." Twelve-year-old Yisraela Ezra recalls that "In Ethiopia my brother played a bamboo flute. I longed to do so too. Now my dream has come true."

These girls are two of 22 musically gifted Ethiopian youngsters for whom a seemingly unattainable dream came true when they were accepted to the Kiryat Yam Youth Orchestra last October.

Kiryat Yam, a small town on the coast between Haifa and Nahariya, is hardly a place in which one would expect to find a youth orchestra of international repute. Yet the orchestra, founded by the conductor Moti Eines (a former student of Mendi Rodan), consists of 268 youths from diverse backgrounds.

Fourteen-year-old Russian-born flutist Tania for example, joined the orchestra soon after her arrival in Israel last year. Unlike most of the other musicians, who had no musical background, she had already won second prize in the 1993 Olympiad in the CIS. Her parents moved to Kiryat Yam to enable her to join the orchestra.

"Our secret is that we love our work, we love the children and we believe in them," says Eines.

"The musical training changed my life and gave it meaning," affirms Shalom Malul, an 18-year-old Israeli of Moroccan and Algerian descent. One of the first children to join the orchestra after its inception in 1991, he says "I even became more disciplined at school and got better grades."

Shalom hopes to do his army service playing the tuba in the IDF military band.

"We started out with only 25 children," recalls the director. "They came from the [local] Levinson religious high school and the Rodman secular high school. At first we had to work really hard to interest them in the project. This meant taking a simple music aptitude test. It was only two or three months later that we were approached by dozens of children who literally begged to be accepted."

Eines started the project with only five teachers. He now has 14 highly qualified and experienced instructors.



Two of the 268 members of the orchestra try their hand with the flute: Orchestra spokeswoman Jane Gutman (below) with three students: We never criticize the children but we do push them quite hard from one level to the next. (Eyal Landesman)

The orchestra's British-born spokeswoman Jane Gutman teaches the flute. Her love of music and her enthusiasm for her work are infectious. She believes music teachers can always find a way to overcome that critical moment when a child might want to abandon his music. It is no wonder that her two sons, Avi, 15, and Yoni, 13, also love music and play the guitar.

Gutman, who also coordinates the Ethiopian project, says, "On Tu B'Shvat these lovely [Ethiopian] children took part in their first concert. The look on their faces, the inner warmth and the smiles - I've never seen anything like it."

"We never criticize the children but we do push them quite hard from one level to the next."



THE PUPILS study at three different levels. The initial level, the "training band," is the one into which newcomers enter after six months of basic music orientation. At the second level, the "lower intermediate stage," students normally continue training for a year. At the top level, the "concert band," the young musicians play both classical and jazz, and are offered opportunities to perform at prestigious events here and abroad.

The orchestra travels overseas twice a year; it is currently touring Switzerland, Germany and France. It represented Israel at the Berlin Festival in 1992 and played with the German National Youth Band in Germany in 1994. In addition, it has

won prizes in a number of competitions such as the annual Kfar Sava Wind Band competition. The concert-band level has also hosted five European bands and is a source of pride to Kiryat Yam.

Surely this impressive list of achievements requires a similarly impressive budget? "Kiryat Yam's mayor, Shmuel Sisso, a music lover himself, pays the teachers' salaries from municipal funds," explains Eines. "He's a mayor who places music and culture high on the list of priorities."

Whereas elsewhere lessons cost between NIS 250 and NIS 500 per month, these children pay a nominal fee of NIS 50, while the Ethiopian

children pay a mere NIS 10. For this they receive a private music lesson and two orchestral instruments per week. And musical instruments, which would otherwise cost NIS 2,000 to NIS 14,000, are made available to them free of charge.

Shlomo Harir, principal of Levinson School, has allotted three temporary buildings in the school grounds for the orchestra. Other sources have donated money to improve the acoustics in one of the buildings.

The orchestra's founder envisions a real home and concert hall for the orchestra, as well as a music school to replace the present accommodation. Seated in his modest office,

surrounded by pictures and trophies - evidence of the orchestra's past successes - Eines says: "Our children, who are already doing a six-to-nine-point matriculation exam in music under these conditions, really do require suitable facilities. Sometime in the future," he muses, "we may find someone to help fulfill this dream."

So little Hava Mashasha, who started out playing the broom, may yet pass her matriculation exam in music at a future Kiryat Yam music school. She may even follow in the footsteps of those students who received grants to study with IPO musicians and become a famous musician in her own right.

The best of Britain's entertaining obits

IN life, Maj. Donald Neville-Willing found his dentures a liability in romance: "I'm unlikely to be successful if the moon is bright," he famously remarked.

In death, *The Daily Telegraph's* obituary remembered Neville-Willing's dental anxieties, his colorful but entirely unreliable stories, and his belief that World War II was "the best thing that ever happened to English homosexuals."

During his time as editor of *The Daily Telegraph's* obituary page, Hugh Massingberd played up the odd and the entertaining, and created one of the most consistently readable pages in the paper.

"Foes and friends of the subject should be able to derive pleasure from it," said Massingberd, whose favorites were recently collected in a book, *The Daily Telegraph Book of Obituaries*.

"Reading over them again, I don't think there is any malice there. There was mischief in some cases, but not malice," says Massingberd. "I think you want more people to say, 'Gosh, what a remarkable life,' and give them a laugh along the way."

Subtitled "A Celebration of Eccentric Lives," the book blends the worthy, the shameful and the sublimely ridiculous, sometimes in a single obituary:

- John Allegro, "the Liberator of biblical

scholarship," whose promising career as a scholar of the Dead Sea Scrolls degenerated into a series of books claiming that Christianity was a hallucinogenic mushroom cult; indeed, that Moses, David and Jesus were fungi. The obituary recalled a reviewer's opinion that Allegro's books "gave mushrooms a bad name."

- Nerea de Clifford, author of *What British Cats Think About Television*, who had concluded: "Most cats show an interest of some kind, though it is often of hostility."

- Lawrence Isherwood, who painted celebrities as he imagined them in the nude. The obit recorded Lt. Col. A.D. Wintle's opinion - "What I like about Isherwood's paintings is that there is no doubt about which way they hang" - and reminded readers that Wintle was "celebrated for debagging his solicitor [removing his lawyer's pants]."

- Felix Hope-Nicholson, whose household once included "a certain Miss Huntley, a former governess to the Spanish royal family, who had a mania for mending household linen."

- Peter Langan, the erratic restaurateur: "Often he would pass out amid the cutlery before doing any damage, but occasionally he would cruise menacingly beneath the tables, biting unwary customers' ankles."

Admittedly, most of the obituaries in *The Daily Telegraph* record the passing of military heroes, aristocrats and other worthies.

But it also made room for Len Chadwick, outdoor columnist for the *Oldham Evening Chronicle*, with an obituary that might leave readers regretful, or relieved, that they never met him:

"A classic autodidact, as he strode along Chadwick would regale the young boys who were his most frequent companions (he was homosexually inclined) with interminable but inspired monologues - often in Esperanto - on subjects ranging from the history of socialism or his prisoner-of-war experiences, to the poetry of Ebenezer Elliott."

Massingberd said his term as editor, from 1986 to 1994, was "just a lucky time... a time when so many legends of the century were dying."

That applies especially, he said, to the old warriors of World War II. "They are marvelous stories. We're not going to see their like again."

The entertaining warts-and-all obituary can be as misleading in its way as more conventional tributes.

"I particularly enjoyed doing the obit of Sir Hugh Rankin. But only the other day I spoke to an aunt of mine who said he was

absolutely impossible in real life," Massingberd said.

Sir Hugh was variously runner-up in the All-Britain Sheep Judging Competition, president of the British Moslem Society, vice-president of the World's Buddhist Association, and an avowed "blood-red militant communist" as a member of the Perth County Council.

In celebrating life, *The Daily Telegraph* ignores funeral plans, rarely dwells on the cause of death and never reports the date.

Massingberd recalled arguing with *The Daily Telegraph's* former editor, Max Hastings, about whether the cause of death should be included.

"The very day after he had more or less ordered me to do so, someone had died of a penile implant which had imploded," Massingberd said. The subject was dropped.

Massingberd is mining the archives for a second collection of obituaries, this one devoted to military men. And then there may be another volume about adventurers.

"What interests me is how many eccentrics there will be in the future," said Massingberd, who thinks the breed has been decimated by modern life. "There are plenty of people posing as eccentrics, but the true eccentric is unaware." (AP)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

8

ICL loses NIS78 million

COMPANY RESULTS
RACHEL NEIMAN

ISRAEL Chemicals yesterday reported an annual net loss of NIS 78.22 million, compared with net gains of NIS 120.24m. in 1994.

Annual revenues went up to NIS 4.35 billion from NIS 3.73b.

Losses were attributed to the nature of the highly competitive export market, to export costs calculated in shekels and to wages which were influenced by government policy.

The rate of exchange "seriously" affected profitability, the company said. "Only efficiency measures now [being] implemented prevented more serious damage to profitability."

Reorganization proceedings were also cited, including closure of unprofitable activities, cancellation of investments in machinery due to be shut down or upgraded, personnel cuts and recalculation of finances according to a new accounting policy.

The company is also in the process of carrying out a \$2b. investment policy, whose effects are not yet reflected in annual results.

Last May, following the February sale of a 24.9% majority share to Israel Corporation and the Eisenberg group, ICL (formerly a government company) announced redivision into three parts: the Dead Sea business group, the Bromine business group and the Rotem business group.

It was decided that responsibility for Fertilizers and Chemicals, and for research and development group TAMI would be jointly handled by the chairman of the three business groups.

Reorganization of the ICL's holding in Dead Sea Works and the Bromine group was concluded early last year, so ICL now owns 89% of each company.

Primary activity centers around exploitation of natural resources from the Dead Sea - such as bromine, potash, salt, magnesium and phosphates from the Negev.

Seventy percent of production takes place in Israel and 87% of all

goods produced are sold abroad. ICL has subsidiaries in the US, Germany, France and Holland.

A public share issue on NASDAQ of an additional 20% in ICL is planned.

Ackerstein Industries posted an increase in net profits to NIS 10.22m. from NIS 1.2m.

Revenues rose to NIS 164.43m. from NIS 141.45m., while earnings per share went up to NIS 0.31 from NIS 0.04.

Funding costs decreased to NIS 1.9m. from NIS 7.5m. in 1994, due to a drop in inflation to 8.1 percent from 14.4% in 1994.

Pri Haemek reported annual net losses of NIS 22.75m., compared with net gains of NIS 2m. in 1994.

Annual revenues fell to NIS 99.13m. from NIS 118.56m.

Losses were a result of rises in the cost of sales, raw materials, wages, manufacturing, and related costs.

Increased competition in the local market lowered prices and damaged profitability, as did the gap between the dollar exchange rate and CPI.

During the fourth quarter, the company decreased production and increased raw material purchases.

Israel Land Development Hotels suffered annual net losses of NIS 706,000, compared with net losses of NIS 890,000 in 1994.

Revenues went up to NIS 169.4m. from NIS 151.55m., of which NIS 68.8m. represented hotel activity from NIS 71.8m. in 1994.

Revenues went up to NIS 100.5m. from NIS 79.7m.

Mini Line posted a rise in net profits to NIS 4.7m. from NIS 2.4m.

Revenues went up to NIS 133.2m. from NIS 97.7m., while earnings per share rose to NIS 0.70 from NIS 0.41.

The company imports and markets electrical appliances - including brands King, Electrolux and Frigidaire - and acts as a distributor for Motorola cellular phones.

Clal posts 63% rise in annual net profits

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

CLAL (Israel) completed the year with a 63 percent growth in net profits, reflecting an improvement in almost all the holding company's activities. The exception was the capital market field, which continued to suffer from a low level of activity.

The conglomerate yesterday reported an increase in annual net profit to NIS 184 million from NIS 113m. in 1994. The company more than doubled its fourth quarter net profits to NIS 45m. from NIS 21m.

Net return on equity on an annual basis increased to 8.5% from 5.5%. The group's revenues, excluding revenues from the insurance sector, increased to NIS 4.8 billion from NIS 4.4b.

Total revenues, including those of unconsolidated companies and also insurance premiums, increased to NIS 16.4b. from NIS 15.4b.

Exports went up to NIS 4.4b. from NIS 4.1b. last year.

Key factors which led to the improvement in earnings included Clal's share in the results of operations in the industrial, commerce, construction and real estate and insurance sectors.

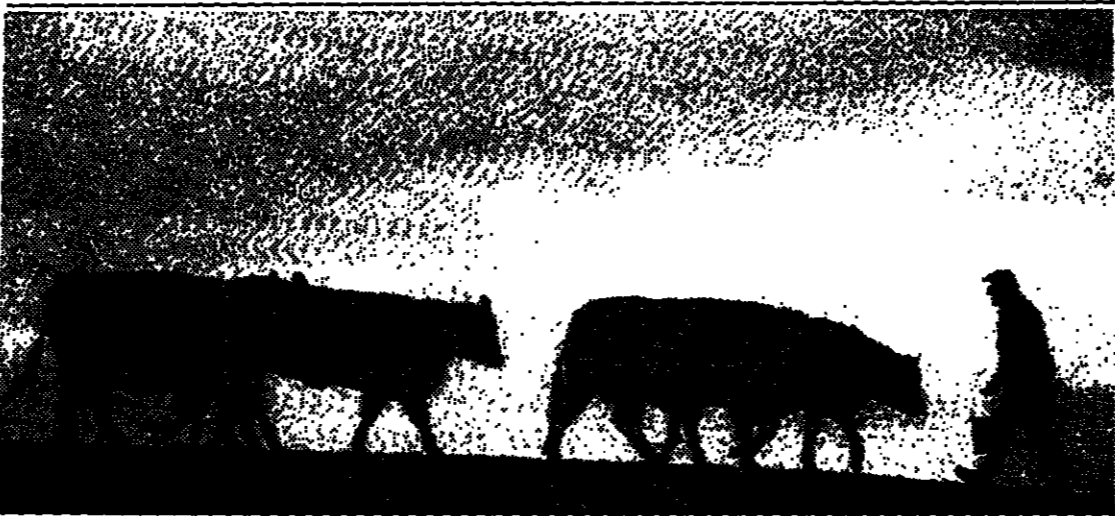
In the industrial segment, profits increased to NIS 157.6m. from NIS 101.9m., in the commerce segment profits rose to NIS 16.7m. from NIS 3.9m. and in the construction and real estate sector

profits doubled to NIS 30.2m. from NIS 14.8m.

The contribution of the insurance sector earnings rose to NIS 34.3m. from NIS 800,000, despite heavy losses in the motor vehicle and property insurance field in the first quarter.

The capital market field incurred losses of NIS 7.3m., compared with losses of NIS 2.7m. in the previous year, mainly because of the continued low level of activity in the sector.

Commenting on the capital market, Clal CEO and president David Weinshel said last week that "today, the capital market is low, but in the long run I believe the situation will change. Foreign investors are already coming."



Willie McLean, owner of Netherton farm in Stirlingshire, tends to his Aberdeen Angus cattle yesterday. His beef supply is in high demand, as it is fed on a wholesome vegetarian diet. Beef sales have plunged since the BSE link to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease was announced.

Israel, PA ban UK meat imports

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

BOTH Israel and the Palestinian Authority yesterday announced a ban on imports of British beef after the UK government's disclosure last week that 10 people who contracted an incurable brain wasting disease probably got it from eating tainted British beef.

Israel's frozen meat exports to 12 nations, two of which reported incidences of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, BSE, which is thought to be transferred to humans in the form of

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), known as mad cow disease.

France and Ireland have reported isolated cases of BSE, compared to 15,000 cases per year in the UK. According to guidelines set by Israel's Veterinarians Association, frozen cattle livers, bones, hearts and tongues should not be imported.

The PA released an anxiety-quelling message, saying it

intends to carefully inspect all meat imports.

In 1989, the UK banned the use of sheep organs, cattle brains and other animal parts in the meat processing industry after studies showed that the parts contained BSE.

The UK has said that the spread of CJD is unlikely because of the measures taken since 1989.

Israel and the PA are among more than 20 countries to ban imports of British beef.

Weather causes NIS 6m. crop damage

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE fruit and vegetable sector has suffered damages of about NIS 6 million during the last few days as a result of bad weather and hail, according to the Agriculture Ministry's Natural Disaster Fund.

Most of the damage is to citrus fruit, unpicked summer fruit, vegetables and flowers in the South and along the coast. Farmers will be covered for the damage out of

the Natural Disaster Fund.

Fund manager David Ginsburg said the fund's appraisers will examine the damages to the sector over the next few days.

"There is damage to green vegetables like celery, cabbage, watermelon, pepper, onion, potatoes, as well as to first fruits, mainly in the south, like peaches,

apricots and apples."

The fund has annual premiums of \$24m. So far this year, the ministry has already transferred \$6m. in compensation to farmers for damage caused by weather.

The ministry emphasized that the wintry weather has benefited some of the agricultural sectors, like the wheat crops in the South. It has also helped the water level of the Kinneret.

Africa Israel: Apartment prices will rise 7%

Company posts 51% increase in annual net profits to NIS 103 million

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AFRICA Israel expects a seven percent real rise in apartment prices this year, higher than its initial forecast of 5%-5.5%, president and CEO Shlomo Grofman said yesterday.

Speaking at the company's press conference to announce its annual results, Grofman said Africa Israel posted a 51% increase last year in net profits to NIS 103.1 million from NIS 68m. in 1994.

Grofman said the company had to revise its forecast on apartment prices as a result of the closure of the territories, which has led to a shortage of workers in the sector.

"In the past, we forecast that apartment prices would rise 5%-5.5% in real terms, but as a result of the closure of the territories we have changed our forecast to take into account the need to bring in foreign workers that are more expensive than workers from the territories," he said. "The forecast also takes into account the fact that it will take time for the foreign workers to arrive, as well as expectations of changes in currency rates after the elections. We expect apartment prices to rise 7% in real terms this year."

According to Grofman, the closure has led to a shortage of 40,000-45,000 workers, including about 15,000 non-registered workers.

Apartment prices rose 6.3% in real terms last year, about half the real increase in 1993 and 1994, when prices rose more than 12%.

Commenting on the company's forecasts for the construction sector, Grofman said demand will remain high.

"In the housing segment, demand for apartments in the cen-

tral region will be higher than supply, reflecting the slowdown in building startups during the fourth quarter of 1995 and first quarter of 1996," said Grofman.

He said financing difficulties resulting from the strict restrictions that the Bank of Israel has placed on the banks are expected to make it difficult for small contractors to enter new housing projects.

Grofman said Africa Israel's improved net profits reflected an improvement in all its activities.

The return on equity increased to 11.1% from 8.4% last year. Grofman emphasized that the equity is among the highest in the economy.

The company's shareholders' equity increased by NIS 108m. to NIS 1.04b., higher than the equity of most of the country's other investment groups.

The group's profits from general operations, excluding insurance business, rose about 23% to NIS 114.4m. Construction and contracting profits went up about 24% to NIS 112m. from NIS 90.2m.

The company has a substantial number of projects under construction. The volume of investments is about NIS 516m., a large part of which have been sold but have not yet been reflected in the financial statement.

Last year, Africa Israel sold more than 900 apartments and started construction of about

1,200. At the end of the year, the company had 2,500 apartments under construction, a 40% increase from 1994.

The company's revenues from income generated by operating

and leasing of properties rose to NIS 56.7m. from NIS 52.4m.

In the reported period, the hotel sector's profits increased about 55% to NIS 17m.

The improvement in earnings was also due to the insurance sector.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (25.3.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.875
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.250	4.250	4.500	
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	1.875	1.875	2.250	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.375	0.375	0.625	
Yen (10 million yen)				

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (26.3.96)					
CURRENCY AND TRANSFERS	BUY		SELL		Reg. Rates*
		Buy	Sell	Buy	
Currency basket	3.4729	3.5280	3.22	3.18	3.5023
U.S. dollar	3.0707	3.1294	2.92	2.78	3.1080
German mark	2.0882	2.1199	2.06	2.15	2.1093
French franc	4.8528	4.7898	4.81	4.84	4.7450
Japanese yen (100)	0.5353	0.5162	0.59	0.58	0.6146
Dutch guilder	2.9022	2.9494	2.85	3.00	2.8507
Swiss franc	1.9848	1.9848	1.83	1.83	1.8823
Norwegian krona	2.5569	2.5258	2.53	2.67	2.6059
Swedish krona	0.4680	0.4738	0.45	0.49	0.4698
Norwegian krona	0.4797	0.4875	0.47	0.50	0.4843
Danish krone	0.5442	0.5490	0.53	0.56	0.5455
Finnish mark	0.6700	0.6800	0.65	0.70	0.6776
Canadian dollar	2.2901	2.2965	2.22	2.33	2.2783
Australian dollar	2.2971	2.4191	2.38	2.46	2.4022
S. African rand	0.7526	0.7583	0.71	0.75	0.7380
Belgian franc (10)	1.0180	1.0214	0.99	1.05	1.0247
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9871	3.0180	2.91	3.05	2.9849
Hong Kong dollar	1.8732	2.0251	1.88	2.04	1.8886
Israeli pound	—	—	—	—	4.4911
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—	—	1.9896
Egyptian pound	—	—	—	—	4.4911
ESU	3.8729	3.8854	—	—	3.9116
Irish punt	4.8382	4.8163	4.75	4.99	4.8373
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4807	2.5208	2.43	2.56	2.5054

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Israel Airports Authority Ben-Gurion International Airport (BGIA)

Notice to Departing Passengers

BGIA Now Has Two Terminals - Terminal 1 and Terminal 2

Terminal 2 for international flights (attached to the domestic flights terminal) will begin operating Sunday, March 31, 1996.

Airlines with flights leaving from Terminal 2:
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Air Holland (GG) - Amsterdam
Corese Air (CRL) - Paris
Air Charter (SF) - Paris

Notice to those accompanying departing passengers!
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This notice is not a suggestion to buy these units.

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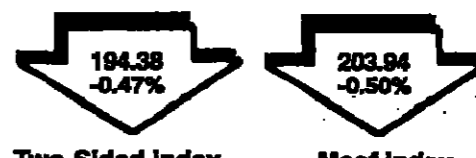
**Poalim Mutual Funds Ltd.
Israel Discount Bank Trust Co. Ltd.**

POALIM - MUTUAL FUNDS Ltd. P.K.N.

Market falls as options holders sell shares

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ



STOCKS fell yesterday as Maof options holders, who are betting the index will reach a lower level, sold shares in companies on the index. The Maof Index dropped 0.50 percent to 203.94 and the Two-Sided Index fell 0.47% to 194.38. Of 992 issues trading across the exchange, nine shares fell for every five that rose.

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates against NIS.

INFLATION STOCK MARKETS table with sub-sections for New York market indexes and NYSE stocks.

Other stock market indexes table including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and various regional indices.

Israeli stocks in NY table listing various companies and their stock prices.

INFLATION MONEY MARKETS table showing dollar crossrates and various financial data.

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TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

Main Tel Aviv Stock Market table with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Volume. Includes sections for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, and AFTERNOON.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, and other global markets.

'Mad-cow' crisis pulls down FTSE

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - UK stocks fell for a second day as the BSE, or "mad-cow", crisis continued to weigh on sentiment. The FTSE 100 closed 21.0 points lower at 3,660.9, extending Monday's 25.1-point decline.

Wall Street stocks steady after rates unchanged

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Wall Street stocks drifted higher in lackluster trading yesterday as little enthusiasm was generated by the Federal Reserve's widely expected decision to leave interest rates unchanged.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES table showing exchange rates for various currencies including Mark, Sterling, Yen, Sfr, and FF.

Croatia shuts out Israel, 2-0

DEREK FATTAL

THE schizophrenic personality of the national soccer squad was in full evidence yesterday afternoon in Vrazadin as the side fell to a 2-0 defeat against Croatia.

In the first half the visiting Israelis, with midfielder Eyal Berkowitz at his mischievous best, managed to outwit the hosts and produce several clear scoring chances but failed to get the ball into the back of the net.

After the interval Shlomo Scharf's men surrendered the initiative and allowed the Croats to completely dictate the proceedings. The coach's second-half substitutions just served to compound the problem, particularly the 60th-minute introduction of Reuven Atar for Berkowitz, Israel's best player. With the much-hyped Croatian attack looking impotent it fell to Israel's defense to make two serious errors that allowed their opponents to take two easy goals in two minutes.

The Croats, who topped Italy to lead their qualifying group and so secure a place in the finals of the European Championship in England this coming summer performed well below par. Without their illustrious trio of European super stars, Suker-Boksic-Boban, this looked a most ordinary side, and on the basis of their first half display the Israelis should have come back home with a win.

Berkowitz's vision provided the springboard for some entertaining counterattacks. As early as the 8th minute Haim Revivo - serving as the lone offensive marauder - was released with just the veteran Tonci Gabric facing him in goal, but was ruled offside.

On the quarter hour Revivo ran onto another Berkowitz pass and snaked past West Ham's Salven Bilic in the box only to have his shot beaten down from close range by Gabric.

Tal Banin, who had a frustrating afternoon, received the sort of pass from Berkowitz in the 22nd minute that would make a fine Passover present. Unfortunately, though unmarked at the edge of the area, Banin failed to even manage a shot.

Two more fair opportunities fell to Revivo, in the 26th and 34th minutes, crafted by fine right-flank work by Felix Halfon. Once again the goal eluded the National League's top marksman.

The break allowed Croatian coach Miroslav Blazevic to give his team the required roasting. The introduction of Igor Stimac helped add some composure to the side.

Faced by more serious attacking pressure Israeli resolve evaporated and the Croats began to pin the visitors back. Berkowitz became the only source of hope as Itzik Zohar who replaced Nir Klingler,

failed to impress. When Berkowitz made way for Atar, the Israelis lost their ace card.

The double blow commenced in the 76th minute when Golan Malul in the Israeli goal showed his inexperience by handling a back pass under pressure. The resulting free kick bounced off the defensive wall straight to Stimac who lobbed the ball into the back of the goal.

Two minutes later a punch drunk defense allowed Goran Vlaovic to skirt through Gadi Brumer and pop the ball over the helpless Malul for the second.

The Israelis managed the grim task of avoiding further concessions up to the final whistle. The one attacking chance of the half came in the 89th minute when Atar rounded the keeper but hit the post with the whole goal gaping. The miss summed up the match. On form like this the Israelis are unlikely to qualify for the World Cup finals, while the

Illingworth steps down as England manager

LONDON (Reuters) - Ray Illingworth confirmed he was stepping down as England cricket manager yesterday and the sport's governing body said it would not immediately fill the role although a new coach would be appointed.

The new coach, widely expected to be either David Lloyd of Lancashire or former England captain John Emburey, will work alongside Illingworth in his other role as chairman of the selectors last week after the only other candidate, David Graveney, withdrew his candidature.

But Illingworth, criticized over England's poor World Cup campaign, confirmed to the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) that he had decided to stand down as team manager.

The TCCB's executive committee, which met at Lord's yesterday, said it hoped to appoint a new coach before Easter and two new selectors soon afterwards.

The changes mean England's teams for the forthcoming series against India and Pakistan and the touring parties for next winter's program will be chosen by a five-man panel headed by Illingworth.

A working party is looking into the administration, selection and management of England teams and is due to report to the TCCB in August.

"With this in mind, the executive committee have decided that they will appoint a coach, not manager, for the duration of this summer only," a TCCB statement said. "An announcement will be made in due course."

Graf, Agassi roll to victories in Florida

KEY BISCAIYNE, Fla. (AP) - Top-seeded Steffi Graf shut down Mary Joe Fernandez 6-1, 6-0 in 47 minutes at the Lipton Championships on Monday night.

Gabriela Sabatini also advanced to the quarter-finals by beating Jennifer Capriati 6-1, 6-4, which interrupted a comeback but revived a rivalry dormant for the past three years.

"I could have done a little bit better," said Capriati, playing in her third tournament since mid-February after just one match in the previous 2 1/2 years. "But still I feel like I had a good tournament and a great time, so I'm very happy with myself and with everything."

Other women reaching the quarter-finals included No. 3 Anke Huber, No. 5 Kimiko Date and No. 6 Chanda Rubin. Huber defeated Judith Wiesner 6-4, 6-4; Date beat Silvia Farina 6-2, 6-2; and Rubin eliminated Nathalie Tauziat 6-3, 6-4.

Among those advancing to the fourth round in the men's draw were Andre Agassi, Jim Courier and Stefan Edberg.

Agassi, seeded third, survived his second consecutive three-set duel to beat Jean-Philippe Fleurian 6-2, 4-6, 6-2. No. 7 Courier beat Byron Black 7-6 (7-1), 6-0. The unseeded Edberg posted a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Nicolas Pereira, who upset top-ranked Thomas Muster in the second round.

Graf has played in just one other tournament since undergoing foot surgery in December, and she graded the performance against Fernandez as her best in some time.

Powerful and accurate with her serve and forehand, Graf reacted to her near-perfection by looking up at the sky in gratitude.

"What else can I do?" the four-time Lipton champion said. "I was astonished. I felt like I could hit whatever I felt I wanted to."

Frustration against Graf is nothing new for Fernandez. She is 0-14 against the German, winning a grand total of two sets. Graf once lost just four points against Fernandez in an entire set.

"I knew after the first game I was in trouble," Fernandez said. "Against me, she seems to play really well all the time. When her



TAKE THAT - Andre Agassi fires a return to Jean-Philippe Fleurian in Monday's match. (AP)

forehand is on, it's deadly."

Monday's Capriati-Sabatini matchup was their 15th, but the first in three years.

"Just like old times," Capriati said with a grin.

Their rivalry dates to 1990. Capriati's first loss as a pro came in the final of her first tournament against Sabatini at Boca Raton, Fla.

"I didn't know anything about her," Sabatini recalled, "but I knew everybody was talking about her. She was only 13 years old. It was amazing."

Sabatini, seeded fourth, won the latest round by mixing her shots and keeping them deep to neutralize Capriati's superior power. An erratic Capriati sprayed her ground strokes, sometimes missing the line by several feet.

With a record this year of 7-3, Capriati will enter the computer rankings next week at about 105th. She said her schedule is undetermined, but the comeback will continue.

When asked about the obstacles she has surmounted in recent months, she swatted away the question.

Finland, third seed, is up against Tunisia 2-0 in Group B and Lichtenstein and Cyprus are level at 1-1.

In Israel's group, C, Zimbabwe leads Macedonia 2-0 and Estonia and Luxembourg are 1-1.

Second seed Ukraine has a 2-0 advantage against Ireland in Group D.

The tournament is scheduled to end on Saturday but can be extended to Sunday to catch up on the rained-out days.

Spurs keep streak alive

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ (AP) - The San Antonio Spurs overcame fatigue and a cold-sweat-come quarter to win their 14th game in a row - one short of the franchise record - with a 95-88 victory Monday night over the New Jersey Nets.

The Spurs shot just 4-for-17 in the fourth quarter and 37 percent overall, but stayed ahead with a pair of 3-pointers by Sean Elliott and by outbounding the top rebounding team in the NBA.

Elliott had 35 points, one short of his season-high, and David Robinson had 11 offensive rebounds and a total of 17 rebounds to go with his 19 points.

San Antonio outbounded the Nets 52-43, including 23-12 on the offensive glass, in winning its 50th game of the season.

Jazz 103, Mavericks 86 Karl Malone scored 29 points, surpassing the 23,000 plateau for his career, in Utah sending Dallas to its

11th straight loss. Scott Brooks led Dallas with 16 points, but 13 of those came in the fourth quarter when the Jazz led by no less than 11 points. Jason Kidd added 13 points.

Jeff Hornacek scored 17 points and Utah won its fourth straight and 17th straight home game to remain within two games of Midwest Division leader San Antonio.

Utah scored the first 11 points of the game and built a 17-4 lead.

Trail Blazers 94, 76ers 71 Arvydas Sabonis had 18 points and 15 rebounds in less than three quarters helping Portland send Philadelphia to its eighth straight loss.

Sabonis made his first seven shots and was 8-for-9 from the field as Portland dominated the middle from the start. Backup center Chris Dudley had 10 points and nine rebounds. Clifford Robinson added 17 points for Portland.

MONDAY'S NBA RESULTS: San Antonio 95, New Jersey 88 Utah 103, Dallas 86 Portland 94, Philadelphia 71

Montreal's other goals. Travis Green scored for New York.

Maple Leafs 4, Flames 2 Felix Potvin stopped 46 shots for visiting Toronto.

The Maple Leafs took a four-goal lead in the first period as Dmitri Yushkevich, Mats Sundin, Mathieu

Schneider and Wendel Clark scored even though Toronto was outshot 21-11 in the period.

Steve Chiasson broke Potvin's shutout three minutes before the end of the second period and Theoren Fleury added a power-play goal midway through the third.

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division					Central Division							
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
N.Y. Rangers	27	22	34	82	249	209	Y-Detroit	58	32	17	287	181
Philadelphia	37	22	33	87	244	186	X-Chicago	57	24	12	267	194
Florida	36	25	9	85	237	206	St. Louis	31	29	18	186	210
New Jersey	33	28	11	77	187	171	Toronto	29	34	12	219	232
Tampa Bay	33	28	11	77	213	223	Calgary	30	32	11	217	214
Washington	33	29	10	78	201	187	Anaheim	29	37	7	206	225
N.Y. Islanders	20	44	8	48	204	279	Edmonton	28	38	7	214	274
Northeast Division					Pacific Division							
Pittsburgh	43	25	4	90	228	250	Y-Columbo	42	22	10	291	218
Montreal	37	28	8	82	241	221	Vancouver	29	31	15	255	256
Boston	34	29	9	77	246	233	San Jose	30	32	11	217	214
Hartford	30	33	9	69	211	228	Los Angeles	21	38	16	168	219
Buffalo	28	37	7	63	212	226	Dallas	18	49	7	43	230
Ottawa	15	53	4	34	147	258						

y-clinched division title; x-clinched playoff spot

Red Wings approaching league win record

DETROIT (AP) - Mike Vernon made 29 saves Detroit beat Anaheim 5-1 Monday night to extend their unbeaten streak to 11 games.

With their 56th win, the Red Wings moved within five victories of breaking the NHL season record of 60 victories set by the 1976-77 Montreal Canadiens. Detroit has nine games left.

The Los Angeles Anaheim franchise-best unbeaten streak at seven (6-0-1).

Paul Coffey had two assists for the Red Wings, who got goals from Keith Primeau, Vladimir Kostaninovic, Dino Ciccarelli, Sergei Fedorov and Tim Talyor.

Flyers 3, Whalers 0 Ron Hextall made 21 saves for his second straight shutout and fourth of

the season as host Philadelphia Flyers got two goals from John LeClair.

The Flyers, 24-8-5 at home this season, got another solid performance from Hextall, who shut out the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-0 Saturday night.

It was the first time a Philadelphia goaltender has recorded back-to-back shutouts since Bernie Parent did it in the playoffs against Toronto in April, 1975.

Canadiens 4, Islanders 1 Craig Rivet scored his first NHL goal as host Montreal Canadiens beat struggling New York and kept in the thick of the playoff race.

Mark Recchi, Jeremy Stevenson and Vincent Damphousse scored

MONDAY'S NHL RESULTS Montreal 4, N.Y. Islanders 1 Philadelphia 3, Hartford 0 Detroit 5, Anaheim 1 Toronto 4, Calgary 2 Vancouver 4, Los Angeles 1

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MERCEDES

Reeve saves lifeless Oscars

News agencies
LOS ANGELES

IT took Christopher Reeve to spark the Oscars telecast. Otherwise, the 68th annual Academy Awards was generally a lifeless, even prim affair.

Never did it sink to the delicious tackiness of past years. There was only one embarrassing technical glitch to jeer at (presenter Anjelica Huston spoke her piece with no microphone). Politicizing was kept to a bare minimum. No outrageous get-ups. No one seemed high on anything.

On the other hand, seldom did the telecast rise to anything greater than dispensing awards.

Thank goodness, then, for Reeve. Introduced well into the broadcast on a bare stage in his wheelchair, the paralyzed actor introduced a tribute to Hollywood films through the years that have tackled social issues.

Then, in a soft but firm voice, he brought a much-needed reality check to an evening based on make-believe by concluding, "There is no challenge, artistic or otherwise, that we cannot meet."

It was a galvanizing moment. Mel Gibson, winner of best director and best picture Oscars for his medieval epic *Braveheart*, meanwhile joined an elite club of movie stars who have gone on to earn Academy Awards for calling the shots behind the camera.

Minutes after his movie about a 13th Century Scottish rebel leader took the top honors, Gibson was thanking "every director I ever worked with."

"They were my film school and now that I'm a bonafide director with a golden boy (Oscar), well, like most directors, what I really want to do is act," Gibson quipped. He thanked the film's producers for giving the reins to "a fiscal imbecile."

In a year when there was no dominant movie, *Braveheart* led in the overall count with five awards.

It won the best picture Oscar against the Jane Austen drama *Sense and Sensibility*, the real-life space adventure *Apollo 13*, Italy's poetic *Il Postino* and the Australian barnyard fable *Babe*.

"This is truly a wonderful evening for me," Gibson told a star-studded audience at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

The US-born, Australian-raised Gibson, a box-office star best known for acting in the *Mad Max* and *Lethal Weapon* series, has attempted in recent years to do what most actors say they want to do, but few actually do - direct.

For Nicolas Cage, who had been favorite to win the best actor award for the low-budget *Leaving Las Vegas*, it was his first Oscar.

"I know people were saying I was the front-runner, but I found it hard to accept that. You get your hopes up and what if it doesn't happen?" he told reporters.

Susan Sarandon, who has been nominated five times, finally was named best actress for her role as a crusading nun in the anti-death penalty drama *Dead Man Walking*.

British actress Emma Thompson won for best screenplay adaptation for her interpretation of Austen's 19th-century romance, *Sense and Sensibility*. With an acting Oscar to her credit for 1992's *Howards End*, she becomes the first person ever to have won for both writing and acting.

Screen legend Kirk Douglas, looking frail, his voice impaired by a recent stroke, brought the Hollywood elite to its feet when he was given a lifetime achievement award.



Academy Award winners (from left) Nicolas Cage, Mira Sorvino, Kevin Spacey and Susan Sarandon pose with their Oscars after the ceremony in Los Angeles yesterday. Cage won best actor, Sorvino best supporting actress, Spacey best supporting actor and Sarandon best actress.

Irish patrol border as mad cow crisis worsens

NEWS AGENCIES
LONDON

IRISH police patrolled the border with Northern Ireland yesterday to block British cows coming into the republic and British Airways said it has stopped serving British beef to child passengers as fears about mad cow disease raged on.

Thailand joined the list of more than 20 countries that have banned imports of British beef. One of them, France, announced it will start stamping "French Meat" on beef sold there.

In Britain, consumers rejected beef in growing numbers, confused about the risks. But Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell insisted yesterday it remains "a safe product," and claimed Britain's critics have got it wrong.

"I agree with *The Sun* newspaper this morning which says it isn't the cows that are mad, it's the people that are going mad," Dorrell told BBC radio.

"Livelihoods are being threatened by gossip," British veterinary experts rushed to Brussels yesterday in a desperate bid to persuade the European Union to drop its plans for a blanket ban on British beef.

Senior EU veterinary officials endorsed by 14 votes to one a European Commission proposal for the ban that would destroy Britain's multi-billion dollar meat industry due to a possible link between mad cow disease and its human equivalent Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

But a furious British Prime Minister John Major won a temporary reprieve in a late night call that persuaded Commission chief Jacques Santer to reconvene the EU's Standing Veterinary Committee to hear more scientific evidence.

"If someone closely involved has important information to provide he should get a hearing," the Commission's chief spokesman Nikolaus van der Pas told a news briefing yesterday.

To a chorus of disbelieving jeers from reporters, he said EU Farm Commissioner Franz Fischler had not announced the ban on Monday, merely the recommendation of the veterinary committee.

Because nearly all member states have already shut their borders to British beef imports it will be extremely difficult for Britain to get the ban dropped without extremely strong new evidence, Commission officials said.

They noted that Britain had failed to respond to an invitation last week to send experts to discuss the latest evidence from the special advisory committee on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) "mad cow" disease.

Britain's chief medical officer Kenneth Calman told reporters after a preparatory meeting with European Commission farm officials that the afternoon meeting of veterinary officials would concentrate on scientific issues.

Fischler said on Monday the ban was aimed at containing mad cow disease in Britain and restoring consumer confidence shaken by a British government disclosure last Wednesday that the fatal cattle brain infection might be transmissible to humans.

Instead of rubber stamping the veterinary officials' recommendations, EU Commissioners will now first discuss the issue at their weekly meeting today.

Britain's two EU Commissioners, Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock, had already blocked the ban and insisted on a full debate before Major's phone call to Santer, EU sources said.

"There was no Commission meeting and no Commission decision," British Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan told Irish National Television.

London questions the EU's authority to ban British beef exports worldwide, saying the decision did not fully follow scientific evidence and was excessive.

The Commission said the world ban on British beef exports recommended by the veterinary officials on Monday was to prevent the beef being in effect laundered through third countries and coming back onto the EU market.

Bahrain execution sparks school protests

News agencies
MANAMA

BAHRAIN, signaling its resolve to halt a wave of unrest, yesterday executed by firing squad a man convicted of killing a policeman.

It was the country's first execution in 20 years and it triggered fresh clashes between police and protesters.

Opposition groups called the death of Isa Qamber, a 29-year-old Shiite Moslem, "political murder" and warned of increased violence.

Angered by news of the execution, hundreds of villagers in Qamber's hometown of Nuwaidrat and Sitra, both opposition hotbeds, marched on the streets, burning tires and pelting police with stones, residents reported.

Unrest among the Gulf island state's majority Shiite Moslem community opposed to the Sunni-dominated government erupted in December 1994.

Diplomats said they believed Qamber was the first Bahraini to be executed in more than two decades.

A government official said Isa Ahmed Hassan Qamber was shot by firing squad for murdering Ibrahim Rashid Abdul-Karim al-Saidi in Nuwaidrat village last March.

"The man was executed early today," the official said.

Residents said protests broke out in several schools after news of the execution spread. There was no immediate report of casualties or arrest.

A police helicopter hovered over Shi'ite villages and police jeeps roamed the streets, they added.

Qamber was accused with eight others of killing Saidi, whose beaten body was found near his car in Nuwaidrat, 10 km south of the capital Manama.

He was condemned to death and the sentence was confirmed by Bahrain's supreme court last week.

Talks broken off with militants in Kashmir shrine

NEWS AGENCIES
SRINAGAR

SRINAGAR (Reuters) - Armed separatist guerrillas holed up inside Kashmir's holiest shrine and the Indian police broke off talks yesterday with no sign of an end to the standoff, police said.

"The talks were broken off at 2 p.m.," police superintendent Niaz Mehmood told Reuters in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state.

A spokesman for the guerrillas had earlier denied talks were underway.

Authorities on Monday gave the militants two days to surrender and leave Srinagar's Hazratbal shrine or face stiff punishment.

Asked if the government was considering storming the shrine, which armed guerrillas of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) entered on Sunday after a gunbattle in which at least 11 people were killed, Mehmood said: "There are one hundred

ways to take them out." The guerrillas had earlier yesterday handed over the bodies of eight comrades killed in the gunbattle with the government forces.

The government officials had been expecting a breakthrough in negotiations yesterday.

But a spokesman for the JKLF faction with members inside the shrine was defiant. "We will not surrender," Abdul Gani Naseem, spokesman for the JKLF's Aman-ullah Khan faction, told a news conference in Srinagar.

Naseem denied talks were underway. "We have not authorized anyone to mediate," he said. "There is no mediation."

Police and paramilitary forces imposed an indefinite curfew within one km of the Hazratbal premises, which include a shrine containing a relic said to be a hair of the beard of the Prophet Mohammad, a mosque and grounds bordering Dal lake.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy. Slight rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	10	12	cloudy
Berlin	10	12	cloudy
Brussels	10	12	cloudy
Geneva	10	12	cloudy
London	10	12	cloudy
Madrid	10	12	cloudy
Moscow	10	12	cloudy
New York	10	12	cloudy
Paris	10	12	cloudy
Rome	10	12	cloudy
Sydney	10	12	cloudy
Tokyo	10	12	cloudy
Washington	10	12	cloudy
Zurich	10	12	cloudy

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 47, 36, 30, 20, 19, 17 and the additional number was 28.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the king of spades, ace of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

Taiwan calls for new talks with China

TAIPEI (AP) - Taiwan called yesterday for talks with China on trade and reunification, but Beijing demanded that the island give up its quest for a UN seat and political ties with other countries.

Adding to indications military tensions were easing after the end of Chinese war games, the US Navy announced the withdrawal of one of two aircraft carriers sent to patrol near Taiwan in a warning to Beijing.

But China and Taiwan's rival Nationalist government showed no progress toward resolving their conflict over the island's attempt to raise its international profile.

The war games ended on schedule Monday after 18 days, and Taiwan made a qualified offer to grant Chinese demands for direct trade and phone links.

Premier Lien Chan said Taiwan is ready to restart talks on trade, economic cooperation and eventual reunification. But he didn't offer any compromise on Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui's campaign for more diplomatic recognition of his isolated government.

"I sincerely urge the Chinese Communists to give up the erroneous thinking that they could resolve problems with us by military means, and usher in benign, mutually beneficial relations," Lien said in a speech yesterday to parliament.

The Nationalists banned direct contact with China in 1949, when they lost the mainland to the

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